

January 27, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of recommendation for Ms. Dacia Jones. I have known Dacia for approximately two years. In 2014 I was a newly appointed Program Director at Duke's School of Medicine trying to resurrect a nonprofit program, BOOST (Building Opportunities and Overtures in Science and Technology). BOOST existed for over a decade as a strong partner with Durham Public Schools, unfortunately in 2011 federal funds were withheld due to the sequester. In my new role, I was desperate to begin reestablishing this partnership. In 2-3 years much of the DPS landscaper had changed; new administration for the District and individual schools, shifting demographics and sporadic support from other programs created a veritable maze. I spent many of those first few weeks reaching out to individuals I knew as a long time educator and staring in vain at my office walls. With over a million dollars in National Institute of Health funding and desperate local need, I was at a crucial first step.

Enter Dacia. Through my former contacts at area schools, her name kept coming up. Far from the usual cynicism the rank and file typically holds for administrators, there was a distinct admiration in science and classroom teachers' voices. "She's in the schools every day of the month!" I was dumbfounded, as there are practically as many elementary schools in Durham as there are days in the month! When I first made her acquaintance through email, I received an immediate response! In my nearly 30 years of working in and around public schools on both coasts, that had never happened. She put me on her extremely full calendar that day.

Not only did she navigate the shifting political and educational landscape for us, she gave a friendly push to local schools to partner up. We are happily and successfully running with those schools today, in no small part thanks to Dacia Jones.

Dacia has earned, in relatively short acquaintance, my highest recommendation. She is a dedicated, hands-on educator and it is my pleasure to work alongside her on a weekly basis. My professional opinion is you would be wise to recruit her as part of your program or institution.

Thank you,



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Program Director
BOOST

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