

**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

May 29, 2014

Dear Dr. Kurf:

I write to recommend **Ms. Amber Lawson** to you for admission to the MCAT Program. I am excited to write because Amber is one of the most interesting, motivated, and talented young teachers with whom I have had the pleasure of working in my role as Field and Course instructor in the MSU-COE Elementary Internship Program in Detroit.

I worked with Amber for the full 2012-13 academic year. She was a stand out student in my TE 802 (Literacy) and 803 (Social Studies) courses in Detroit. She was also a dedicated and effective intern first-grade teacher whom I supervised at Gompers Elementary School, also in Detroit. Amber's manner in both seminar and her first grade classroom was organized, well prepared, and extremely thoughtful. She became, over that year, a reflective teacher who was able to balance mandated materials and content with incredibly engaging, artful instruction. She wrote plans and re-wrote them with care and attention to her learners' interests, needs, and potential. She exceeded expectations for the internship and subsequently secured a position as a kindergarten teacher, where she has had a successful first year.



**College of  
Education**

**Teacher Education**

Michigan State University  
313 Erickson Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824

517-353-5091  
Fax: 517-432-5092  
education.msu.edu

Literacy is a central interest of Amber's. As someone who is experienced and interested in teaching in the primary grades, she is keenly aware of the importance of literacy as foundational to all other and subsequent school learning and success. Also, having taught in inner city Detroit, she understands the particular importance of excellence in literacy teaching in underserved schools.

Amber is in education for the long haul. Whether she spends her career in the classroom or moves into administration or teacher education, she has the potential to be a leader in literacy education. Continuing her professional learning in our Masters Program is of benefit to her, to the cohort with whom she will study, and to the vibrancy of our department and College. I recommend Amber Lawson to you enthusiastically and without reservation!

Sincerely,

Susan Florio-Ruane, Ed.D.  
Professor Emeritus of Teacher Education