

6 June 2017

Dear Hiring Committee:

I am pleased to offer my strong support to **Molly Cameron**'s application to serve as a secondary theatre arts teacher. I have worked closely with Ms. Cameron over the past four years, both when she was a student at Utah State University and in her first teaching position at Bear River High School (BRHS) in Garland, UT. At USU I served as her academic advisor, instructor of several theatre pedagogy courses, and the director of a production she was in. In the spring of 2017 I had the opportunity to work as a guest director for BRHS's production of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* for which Ms. Cameron served as associate director and co-instructor of Theatre Fundamentals VI. In all of these contexts I have consistently impressed by her dedication to teaching excellence.

In both her coursework at USU, her teaching practica as a student, and in her first professional role Ms. Cameron has demonstrated the ability to develop well-crafted learning plans that address a wide variety of learning objectives and to facilitate in manner that develops rapport with students. She is caring, knowledgeable, open-minded, appropriately flexible, and always dedicated to helping her students meet high standards. She fosters learning environments that are positive, welcoming spaces for students to develop as theatre artists.

Others who have worked with Ms. Cameron have similarly commented on her strengths For example, Deb Hawes, who supervised Molly's student teaching at Coronado High School in Colorado noted: "Molly did a really impressive job in this placement. She was approachable and "easy" with the students which caused them to build relationships with her. Molly was very calm and composed while teaching. She was able to competently handle any unexpected issues that arose and was able to adjust and continue with her lesson. She was also able to recognize a teachable moment and flex her plan to accommodate that moment. Her manner with the students and her well-planned lessons resulted in effective teaching and learning. The students were engaged and responsive to her instruction."

Ms. Cameron is well-prepared to teach a wide variety of theatre courses at the secondary level through both her practical experience as a teacher in the field as well as her participation in a number of upper-level theatre education methods courses at USU, including Drama Across the Curriculum, Applied Theatre, Methods of Teaching Drama, Methods of Teaching Theatre, and Theatre for Young Audiences. In addition to a rigorous general theatre curriculum in performance, technical theatre, design, script analysis, and theatre history, these specialized methods courses provide both breadth and depth of content, including teaching all aspects of theatre & drama in the classroom, using drama as a cross-curricular theatre tool, directing and producing plays at the secondary level, and devising original theatre with young people. Ms. Cameron earned high grades in each of these courses and maintained a strong overall GPA. She graduated from USU in December of 2016 with a B.F.A. in Theatre Arts Education and received teacher licensure in secondary education with an endorsement for theatre, grades K-12.

In sum, Ms. Cameron has definitely demonstrated mastery of the content necessary to serve as an effective theatre arts instructor, and is well prepared to begin her teaching career. I enthusiastically support her application and recommend her without reservation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (435) 797-3103 or matt.omasta@usu.edu.

Best regards,



Matt Omasta, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Assistant Department Head, and Director of Theatre Education