

September 5, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

I've had the privilege of watching Tara's work the last several years and can attest to the fact that she truly has become one of the elite thought leaders within K12 distance education. In my current capacity as leader of the Customer Programs division within Blackboard Collaborate, I work closely with hundreds of educators each year across both K-12 and higher education, and I can say with the utmost confidence that Tara leads this elite pack.

Specifically, Tara goes well above-and-beyond her job description to ensure that her students across the state of Pennsylvania are the most prepared for their roads ahead in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) disciplines. By creating what I consider to believe are the most robust and interactive online courses of any virtual school in the country, Tara ensures her students will succeed by building in dozens of opportunities in a given semester for her students to interact in real-time with their teachers. And we all know that increased interactivity leads to successful students, which ultimately leads to improved test scores and graduation rates.

As evidenced by her team's induction into the Blackboard Collaborate Hall of Fame for Excellence in Collaboration in July 2012 (one of only seven schools throughout the world to receive this honor), Tara's knowledge of and devotion to creative-yet-extraordinarily-productive online courses truly makes her an excellent candidate for Teacher of the Year. I hope you strongly consider her.

Sincerely,

Matt Wasowski
Blackboard Collaborate