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To Whom It May Concern:

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The American Academy of Vietnam is a grade 6-12 school that caters to Vietnamese families who desire for their children to obtain and American high school diploma while living in Ho Chi Minh City. In almost all cases, our graduates will then use these diplomas as vehicles to apply to and later attend American Universities. Although English is the second language for all students, the curriculum is rigorous and all students must satisfy our AERO standards before moving forward. Many of our grade 11 and 12 students will also enroll in our Advanced Placement courses or our college level Syracuse University Placement Advance (SUPA) courses. It is within this environment that Heather Carreiro thrived as the Deputy Head of School.

The high quality and sheer volume of work that Heather is able to accomplish is prodigious. When Heather first arrived at American Academy in 2012, the school had 179 students attending. Four years later we are expecting 350 students and much of this growth can be attributed to Heather. She has worked tirelessly to put systems in place, provide educational leadership and be the organizational backbone for this school for the past four years. The school today is in a very good place and her impact cannot be understated.

Somehow Heather is able to marry her workhorse mentality with an understanding and care for her colleagues. It is not uncommon for teachers to seek her out to talk through challenges they are experiencing or to simply vent. She has a trusted ear and a compassionate heart. She plans with the human condition in mind and has an innate sense for how to work effectively with others. She has earned everyone's respect and her thoughts and words carry much weight.

Heather is an outstanding educator. She is able to lead by example. Three years ago she was chosen as the school's teacher of the year as part of a program set up by our parent company Cognita. In reality she would likely be our choice every year for this award as all teachers view her as the school's authority for quality education. She is an adjunct professor for our Syracuse University dual enrollment program and much of the curriculum that she has developed and taught for this program has been recognized as an exemplar for others. Her classroom observations are insightful, her choices for professional development are progressive and her ability to have students perform beyond their own expectations is common. She is the kind of educator we need to best help us prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

If I were the Head of a School where Heather was seeking employment I would hire her on the spot even if there were no position to fill. Her contributions extend far beyond any job descriptions and any school is immediately improved by having her on staff. I have been an educator for over thirty years and have been fortunate to work with many fine educators. To borrow a sports perspective; Heather would make my all time first all-star team.

Best regards,



Mark Lewis  
Head of School