

Natasha Kessler-Rains
UNO Thompson Learning Community
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68182

5 June 2018

Department of Continuing Studies
University of Nebraska-Omaha
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68182

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Kristen Clanton. For the past three years, I have had numerous opportunities to work with Kristen in professional and creative capacities. I know her as a colleague, collaborator, and friend—and I have always admired her commitment and excellence in teaching.

In a professional capacity, I worked with Kristen as a faculty member of the Seven Doctors Project, a 9-week community writing program sponsored by The Nebraska Writers Collective. She joined the program in 2015, adding her fiction and poetry expertise to our core faculty. Kristen jumped right in, showcasing her teaching talents by facilitating workshops, creating and leading assignments, offering our participants feedback, and sharing her great knowledge of literature—she is one of the most well-read individuals I know. Kristen's strengths as a teacher were clear, and, without a doubt, her many contributions strengthened our program.

Kristen is an advocate for her students. When she and I worked together as consultants at Metropolitan Community College's (MCC) Writing Center, I would often observe Kristen's interactions with students. She struck an exemplary balance between encouragement and instruction. Her successful consultations prompted students to meet with her each week. As an experienced instructor, Kristen knows how to meet students where they are academically in order to challenge them, all while upholding clear expectations, instructions, and personal support.

As a collaborator and friend, Kristen has always made herself available to offer guidance and encouragement. I trust her advice and admire her work ethic, so I was thrilled when we received an opportunity to present a lecture for the MCC Creative Writing Forum in October of last year. She and I had long before discovered our mutual interests in dance as an art form, so together we shaped an interactive discussion on the intersections between dance and creative writing. Her initiative and organization kept us on track, deepening my knowledge of her commitment and consistent follow-through.

In closing, I strongly recommend Kristen Clanton as an instructor at the university level. She brings experience, insight, and ingenuity to the table. Kristen is self-motivated and committed to her students. She proves her potential for success in any teaching role she takes on.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am available for any follow-up questions. Feel free to email me at nkessler@unomaha.edu.

Sincerely,

Natasha Kessler-Rains

Natasha Kessler-Rains