

December 6, 2011

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am honored to recommend Lori Snell for Alabama Teacher of the Year. I have known Lori for the past twelve years and have had the privilege of working with her in a co-teaching setting at Enterprise High School for the past six years.

As a special education teacher, I have partnered with Lori in science classes that have served regular diploma students, occupational diploma students, and occasionally certificate students. In these diverse learner classes, Lori has continually utilized different teaching strategies, engaging all of them and meeting their academic needs individually. Working as a team, we have had to collaborate with each other, sharing our ideas to determine a course of action in presenting the curriculum and choosing assessment models that best serve a particular group of students. She has always put a great deal of thought and effort into this process and has made evident the importance of making the best decisions for our students.

I have witnessed Lori time and time again going above and beyond "The Call of Duty" to reach these students academically and emotionally. She has been a great example for our high school students to look up to, as well as being such an encourager to those that have needed it. She has established a rapport with our students and has maintained a classroom atmosphere where students feel comfortable, accepted, and respected. In the midst of our busy days, she has taken the time, many times, to listen, assist, and encourage our students with whatever it was they were struggling with.

At the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, Lori wanted to establish an incentive project for our occupational diploma students. She came up with the idea of creating a "Wildcat Warehouse". This warehouse was to be made up of teenager appropriate donated items such as clothes, shoes, purses, hats, house wares, jewelry, games, electronics, bath products, etc. The students could earn "Cat Tabs" from their teachers during each nine week grading period by showing effort, improving grades, having good attendance, showing acts of kindness, etc. They could visit the Warehouse on the last day of the grading period, making their purchases with their earned tabs. Despite the fact that we were in mobile classrooms on a borrowed school campus, carrying heavy hearts over the loss we had suffered and trying to salvage what we could emotionally and physically as a school and community after the March 1st tornado, she rallied us together and got the Wildcat Warehouse open for business. It has proven to be exactly what Lori had envisioned it to be and is still going strong today. It continues to encourage and reward so many of our students.

Lori's energy and enthusiasm inspires me as well as many others on our faculty. She is continually looking for ways to develop professionally and is always willing to do what she can to help with and improve our school program. Currently, she serves in many capacities in addition to teaching Biology and Science Credit Recovery classes. She is the Science

Department chairperson and is also a member of our School Improvement Team, School Leadership Team, ARI Literacy Team and Credit Recovery Development Team.

I am honored to have had the privilege of witnessing first hand her great character and unlimited abilities as an educator. I believe that Lori's concern for her students, her worth ethic, and her leadership skills make her a great example of what an educator should be. She is definitely a deserving candidate for Alabama's Teacher of the Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherrie Lindsey".

Sherrie Lindsey

Enterprise High School

Special Education Teacher