



Fillmore Central Schools

Home of the Falcons

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to inform you about Laurie Swigart, theater director interested in the position at Northwestern College. Laurie played an active role in my life as my color guard director, piano teacher, voice teacher, and theater director. Now that I myself am an educator, she is my mentor, and the type of educator I strive to emulate.

Throughout the years, Laurie's qualities strengthened theater in the Sparta area as well as its youth. She saw a need for students to experience involvement in a quality theater program. As a result, Upstage Review, a theater program that involves students and the whole community, was created. Through her networking skills and contagious enthusiasm, people give of their time in many ways: donating props, building sets, sewing costumes, selling tickets, and working concessions. Being self-motivated and wanting to better herself, she obtained a degree in theater from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. She now teaches her students costume, make-up, lighting, set and sound design; they are receiving a college-level education in both the technical and artistic side of theater.

Laurie expects the highest of standards from all of her students regardless of the limitations they themselves or others have placed. She inspires them to do their best and pushes them toward excellence through hard work and dedication. I have seen Laurie take students who were pushed to the wayside by others and turn them into unbelievable actors and actresses on stage. Her belief that these "forgotten" students are capable of greatness gives them the self-confidence and self-esteem to achieve success.

Last but not least, Laurie Swigart is able to combine her love for theater with her love for Christ. She shows this love through her actions, and when necessary with words. She builds solid relationships with her students and genuinely cares for each and every one of them. Without her guidance and support, I would have never enrolled at Northwestern College, a school that was unknown to me until Laurie told me about its strive for excellence in academics and faith. I spent five years earning my music education degree as well as growing in my relationship with Christ. Laurie Swigart would be a wonderful addition to the faculty at Northwestern. As she influenced the community of Sparta, WI, she will have an even more positive impact on the community of Northwestern College.

Sincerely,

Maria Wilson
Fillmore Central Choir Director
NWC 2003 Alum