

To Whom It May Concern,

I am delighted to write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Desi Cameron, whom I had the privilege of working with for 15 years during my tenure as Head of School at Westside Neighborhood School. Desi is one of those rare educators who excels simultaneously as a master teacher, a trusted leader among faculty, and a thoughtful architect of learning experiences for both students and adults.

In the classroom, Desi is exceptional. She brings intellectual rigor, creativity, and deep care for students into everything she does. Her teaching is joyful, purposeful, and grounded in strong pedagogy, with an intuitive understanding of child development and how children learn best. Students are deeply engaged in her classroom—not because they are managed, but because they are inspired, challenged, and known. Desi has a natural ability to create learning environments that feel both safe and expansive, where curiosity and confidence grow side by side. Desi is a master teacher in every sense of the term, from delivering our social-emotional curriculum as well as a curriculum innovator.

Beyond her classroom, Desi emerged as a respected and influential leader within our faculty. She played a key role with our onboarding process, welcoming and supporting new staff through our staff and faculty buddy program, helping new teachers feel connected, supported, and successful from the start. Her presence was steady, generous, and grounding, and new teachers consistently benefited from her mentorship, insight, and warmth.

Desi also served as the director of our summer program for three consecutive years, a role that required vision, organization, and strong leadership. She oversaw programming, staffing, and curriculum, ensuring a high-quality experience for students while supporting and developing the teachers she led. Under her leadership, the summer program thrived.

In addition, Desi stepped into the role of Curriculum Coordinator for the upper grades, where she demonstrated a strong ability to think systemically about teaching and learning. She supported curriculum alignment, guided instructional planning, and collaborated closely with teachers to strengthen practice across grade levels. Her work was always thoughtful, inclusive, and grounded in a deep respect for teachers as professionals.

Perhaps most notably, Desi was a powerful leader of professional development. She designed and facilitated learning experiences for teachers that were engaging, reflective, and immediately applicable. Teachers trusted her because she led with curiosity, clarity, and empathy, and because she understood the realities of the classroom. Her professional development work strengthened our faculty culture and elevated instructional practice across the school.

Dr. Desi Cameron is an extraordinary educator, leader and colleague—bright, creative, grounded, and deeply committed to children and teachers alike. I recommend her without reservation and with great enthusiasm. Any school would be fortunate to have her as part of its community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,  
Brad Zacuto  
Head of School  
Westside Neighborhood School