



March 15, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I was introduced to Alicia Madeka over one year ago when she applied to NASA's Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project (ESTCP). Endeavor is a most competitive, national fellowship program making 50 awards each year to in-service, alternative-route, and pre-service formal educators. Alicia is in our Cohort 3.

From the beginning of the program, Alicia, in the most positive sense, has stood out to me. Her experience as an educator and her drive to excel, lead and better her students is outstanding. She is a very impressive educator and is a model participant in Endeavor as she earns her Certificate in STEM with me from Teachers College, Columbia University. She will complete the program this summer. Alicia has a terrific character and is fully dedicated to STEM in the classroom. She takes initiative with her work and exemplifies good classroom STEM pedagogy. She is exceptionally strong in her content, and through Endeavor is scheduled to complete a meaningful final leadership project in the district. Her philosophy to "integrate" STEM is meaningful, as her content and pedagogy effectively impacts the students she teaches.

Going forward, NASA Endeavor has a new affiliation with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). As a Nationally Board Certified teacher, Alicia will help support our Endeavor candidates who will be pursuing their National Board Certification with the work they do in Endeavor. We know she will be a great asset, and we are glad to have her assistance in this new venture. Alicia's continued affiliation with Endeavor over future years will undoubtedly help others model the STEM pedagogical strategies she mastered during her NASA Fellowship.

Alicia is a master of her craft, and my professors and I see this first hand. Endeavor helps to ensure that the Certificate in STEM Education assists Fellows in becoming "highly qualified" science or mathematics teachers. Endeavor improves teachers' knowledge of pedagogical content as educators demonstrate changes in practice and apply science concepts. Fellows come together to build an unprecedented, online community of practice as they complete a minimum of five, exclusively online graduate-level courses including the *STEM Leadership Seminar*. A lifelong learner, Alicia is excelling in her coursework and is providing a great deal of documentation about how she is able to incorporate what she is learning from our professors into her classes.

Fellows earn a "Leadership Distinction" designation on their ESTCP Certificate by proving their ability to demonstrate leadership in their schools. Alicia has a unique leadership experience as she does her project and puts her work toward earning National Board Re-certification.



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I have no doubt Alicia will excel in a new position. Our professors find her conscientious, creative and hard working. She is completing our rigorous academic program with excellent grades and provides us with excellent feedback about NASA-based applications in the classroom.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen Schuster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "S".

Glen Schuster
Project Director