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To Whom it May Concern:

We miss most definitely miss Teresa Romero at Pathways Charter School. She has added tremendously to the staff personally and professionally, and her absence in our school will most assuredly be felt strongly. Having expressed that, I would also like to convey our best wishes from Pathways staff and administration and it is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Teresa as she expands her efforts to meet the needs of even more students in one-on-one instruction. Without a doubt, I can say that Teresa is the most effective math teacher and one-one-one tutor that I have worked with in my 12 years of teaching and my 3 years in administration.

I have worked with Teresa, off and on since 1994 when she tutored one of my advanced math students while on home and hospital study. It was because of my positive experiences with Teresa that she was hired by other schools I worked with as both a math tutor and teacher of small group classes from basic math through calculus. Teresa has been able to reach and help each student she's worked with from highly phobic 5th - 12th graders to a senior working on calculus.

Obviously, Teresa knows math. More importantly, Teresa knows students. She has an uncanny ability to match teaching styles to learning styles and needs. For example, she noticed that while a Special Education student spoke very few words and never initiated conversations, he wrote prolifically. His math skills were several years below grade level so she used his writing strength to teach him math by repeatedly having him write out the processes involved in the math topics she covered with him. This was a teaching strategy that she arrived at intuitively. From working with Teresa, that student went from a 5th grade math level and completed algebra. For Teresa, this kind of connection to individual students' needs and subsequent student achievement is the norm, but rare for many teachers. Her kind nature and true understanding of where each student's strengths and/or weaknesses lie, has been tremendously effective in helping all of our math students' achievements. Her intuitive and simultaneously calculated way of assessing students' performance is keenly accurate. I've seen several students being inspired simply because they have an accurate and reflective gauge of their math skills because of Teresa's assessments. In fact, without knowing it, she has kept more than one independent study student from dropping out of high school and she's rekindled eagerness and confidence in math for just about every student she's taught.

Her strengths in working one-on-one and "reading" what individual students need to be successful at math are magnified when she leads small groups. One might worry that in a group, some of the individual attention might be lost. This was never the case with Teresa. With her, a larger group means that more students learn math and learn how they learn. They also discover that they are not alone and that their peers have strengths and weaknesses and ultimately, this builds confidence. Teresa is remarkable at reaching students and teaching them math. She is truly gifted and gives a lot to each student she works with. I consider each of the new students she will meet to be very fortunate.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Mirabelli
Curriculum & Compliance Director