

# Reference Form

**Letter of reference for:** Erika Johnson

Dear Educator,

In my career in American Public Education, I have met, observed, and evaluated many outstanding young teachers. I have watched them polish their classroom acumen and bring the theory of educational endeavor to the reality. However, Erika Johnson is in an elite league of those with exceptional talent to teach. She is one of the finest new teachers I have known and observed.

Blessed with an excellent portfolio of subject knowledge and curricular context, her intellectual tenacity and diversity make her resourceful nature competitive with the most seasoned of professionals. Her classroom management and discipline are implemented well and with thoughtful design.

My experience with Erika in the Urban Education Program of Chicago's Michigan State University College of Education Cohort---includes my vantage point as director of the program in Chicago as well as the role of her field instructor. It is the latter role in which I have been able to observe her classroom activities as she works tirelessly in her Afro-centric school with a demographic of 100% African-American student population in one of Chicago's most challenging Southside neighborhoods.

Her lessons are well-conceived and delivered. Erika's face time with her students has built a well-defined community in her classroom. In so doing, she is able to teach at the upper levels of cognition as she provides individualized instruction for diverse learners. I watched her teach a provocative unit on the strands of Community in our world today. Beginning with status and role, she carefully took her students to the table of multi-cultural understanding of communities, including their own.

It is my pleasure to recommend Ms. Johnson for your program, promising you an outstanding international teacher whose personal and professional concept of global peace begins with one child at a time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lana Weiss Brown  
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Chicago Cohort Director  
Field Instructor  
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(Signature)

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