

12/5/2023

To: **FIU: Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Science in Special Education**

My name is Shena McNair, and I'm an ESE Specialist/Autism Coach at Village Elementary School in Broward County, Florida.

I'm writing on behalf of Audra Carter, who is applying to your Doctor of Philosophy Special Education program in Teaching and Learning. I've known Audra Wilkins professionally since the beginning of the 2023 - 2024 school year. During that time, I found her to be a true asset to the teachers and students at our school. She is hardworking and an enthusiastic professional.

I have served Broward County with my gifts for the last 19 years in the world of Exceptional Education in many capacities, such as a teacher of students with varying exceptionalities; a mentor for new educators and international teachers; a team leader; as an Autism Coach; and as an ESE Specialist. I have a keen interest in Audra's goals and objectives. She has unique skills and abilities that make her an excellent candidate for your program.

Audra is the (TA) Teacher Assistant in our school's ASD Special Program cluster. She works with our Teachers, Para-professionals, RTB's and oversees the needs of 3 classes, 6 teachers and Para's, and over 27 students. Audra provides her special insights and knowledge into the pedagogy of students with Autism and other disabilities to our first-ever International Teacher. She has become a staple of support and encouragement for our students as they strive to meet their educational goals. Her passion for meeting the unique needs of our students shines through her work daily. She possesses a great deal of knowledge and experience in providing customized assistance to children with a variety of special needs. She has also assisted in adapting materials and strategies to optimize student engagement. She can implement effective classroom management techniques to maintain a safe, healthy, and productive learning environment.

In the time I've known Audra, I've seen growth personally in her delivery of instruction and in her confidence in her abilities to teach students with Autism. Your Doctor of Philosophy program in Special Education: Autism can help her achieve her professional goals and continue this growth.

Audra has my strong endorsement for admission into your graduate program in Teaching and Learning. Based on her adaptability, professionalism, organizational skills, and desire to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities, she can benefit from the enriching knowledge and experiences your program has to offer.

If you have further questions or want any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may call or email me anytime.

Educationally Yours,

Shena McNair

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