

Recommendation

# Recommendation from a Professional Colleague

Christa McAuliffe is applying to participate in The NASA Teacher in Space Project. The teacher who is finally selected will be the first U.S. private citizen to fly on a Space Shuttle mission and will represent the entire teaching profession to the public at large. As a professional colleague of the applicant, please comment on the applicant's ability to communicate effectively, his/her creativity, teaching ability, and capacity for being a good team member.

This form must be typed, single-spaced and must not exceed the space provided on this side of the sheet. When completed, please return the recommendation to the applicant for submission. Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.

Christa McAuliffe has been a colleague of mine for seven years and it is no surprise that she would like to be the first private citizen in space. Her desire to participate in the space program seems to be a natural extension of her sense of history and her commitment to the field of education. I would be pleased to have her represent my profession to the public at large.

At Bow Memorial School in Bow New Hampshire, a school which includes grades 5-9 Christa taught English and I taught World History to the same 9th graders. Christa's ability to diagnose the needs of individual students and to create learning situations in which those needs could be addressed was admirable from any point of view. She was able to challenge bright students and make sure that lower level students had the hands-on experiences which would help them to succeed.

Classroom space at the school was designated by low bookcases in a large open area. A potentially difficult teaching environment was made more manageable by Christa's thoughtfulness and ability to work with people. Her cooperation during group projects, last-minute assemblies and day-to-day classroom management made her an invaluable member of our team.

One of Christa's unique skills is an ability to see beyond the confines of her classroom and to communicate her concerns in a positive way. While at Bow Memorial, she was instrumental in establishing a Faculty Advisory Committee, set up to discuss school-wide problems and recommend constructive action to the administration. That committee, under her direction, created a Discipline Policy for the school which succeeded in turning an unruly building of 400 students into a well-ordered learning institution.

As President of our local teacher's association, Christa often implemented creative ways to negotiate with the School Board and to help weak teachers without them feeling threatened.

Christa is a wonderful role model for teachers. She is concerned, capable, and creative in her approach to education & to people in general. I am delighted to recommend her to you for your space program.

Signature of Reference Eileen O'Hara



NOTE

(Eileen O'Hara taught with Christa at Bow Memorial School, is a member of the Executive Board of NHCSS and is teaching Christa's classes at Concord High School this year.)