**Veronica Getskow, Ph.D.**

**28184 Alaminos Drive North**

**Saugus, CA 91350**

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I write a letter of recommendation for Elmida Baghdaserians. I have known Elmida since 2001 when she was hired as a full time faculty member at Los Angeles Valley College. I have watched her grow and develop as a leader since then.

I have seen Elmida in action as a professor, presenter and department chair. Elmida’s strongest quality is her ability to talk and interact with individuals and groups. Within twenty minutes, she is able to get a group organized and exchanging views on a current topic, and the group experiences diversity in action just with her meaningful comments and compliments. She is able to get a group unified with a viewpoint or a call to action.

She is beginning her second year as department chair at Lost Angeles Valley College. Each semester she has organized informational workshops for students and community members in the field of childcare. Janet Gonzales Mena and Eric Nelson are just two of the headliners she has obtained for informational workshops. She was also instrumental in bringing documentaries such as Stolen Childhoods, and Consuming Kids to the LAVC community for viewing and discussions across campus. She has shown strong leadership in organizing faculty and students to support these events. Elmida is passionate about her work with students, and her passion is contagious. Elmida enjoys advocating for causes that are related to preserving childhood, and respecting the whole child.

Outside of Valley College she is also a leader. She currently teaches for Pacific Oaks on line and as a coordinator helping other instructors improve their course delivery. In the last few years Elmida has presented at several ECE-STEM conferences with a message that children cannot make the connections necessary for science unless they have lots of opportunities to play. She supports the local SCVAEYC chapter and has volunteered her time and resources for the yearly Fall into Fun Event. In 2014 she presented a CAEYC State Workshop on Principles of Adult Education.

She puts the principles of adult education into action! Malcomn Knowles would be delighted to meet Elmida since she is a living example of his principles at work.

Please review all of her qualifications for this award and feel free to contact me if there are additional questions I could answer.

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