

1/29/2015

To whom it may concern,

I understand that Robyn Lopez Melton is being considered by Exchange magazine as an emerging leader in the field of Early Care and Education. I would like to recommend her for that honor. I first worked with Robyn ten years ago at a child care resource and referral agency where Robyn's passion for making a difference for children and families started.

As her mentor in the Oregon statewide mentor program, and a colleague of over a decade, I have observed so much growth over the years and have been long impressed by her diligence and work ethic. One example of this is when Robyn and I worked side by side as co-presidents, volunteering for the Central Oregon Chapter of Oregon Association of Young Children(COC-OAEYC), where Robyn demonstrated the ability to work collaboratively with multiple community partners, and she displayed personal initiative to help partners fully understand strong education principles and practices that had a lasting impact on our chapter which resulted in creating diverse training sessions with deeper content in multiple languages for our annual conference, which included offering college credit for many child care providers that had not previously set foot on a community college campus. The impressive results of the conferences that our chapter has had over the past eight years are a direct result of Robyn's hard work and strong focus.

Robyn has a great deal of experience when it comes to teaching and technical support, in both Spanish and English. She is considerate, caring, and empathetic which is evident in the wide array of work with families, children, child care professionals and community partners that she has worked with over the past decade.

I must also make note of Robyn's exceptional academic achievements. While I worked with Robyn at Child Care Resources she impressed me like no other person I know. She was working a full time job at a child abuse prevention program for young children and their families, raising a young daughter and going back to school. Robyn is hardworking, diligent and industrious. She made all that she did seem easy. I was so proud of her and her achievements. She didn't stop at one degree but rather got two Bachelor's degrees and is now working on her Masters, truly showing that she is engaged in life-long learning.

More recently, Robyn has demonstrated how well-grounded she is in her work as QRIS Manager at Western Oregon University, where she developed Oregon's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and collaborated with multiple partners across the state and has been instrumental in the success of Oregon's climbing number of early care and education professionals working on improving the quality of their child care programs. Robyn has traveled the state, training child care professionals and also participates in parent forums where she can better understand the issues around communities, families and children in both rural and urban areas of our state. Robyn has also presented at national conferences on Oregon's QRIS and the articulated entry process for nationally accredited programs wishing to participate in Oregon's QRIS.

Robyn and I currently co-facilitate a committee that works to ensure that outreach efforts and training offerings incorporate relevant cultural, ethnic, linguistic or disability needs. To conclude, I would like to restate my recommendation for Robyn Lopez Melton. If you are seeking an emerging leader with a record of achievement, Robyn is an excellent choice. She has constantly demonstrated an ability to rise to any challenge. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Lisa DeMoe
Contracts Administrator
Oregon Department of Education
Early Learning Division
503.947.3123