



July 9, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Daria Dillard Stone regarding her personal commitment of students and families in the Dayton community. Daria and I have worked for Parents Advancing Choice in Education, Inc. for the past eleven years. During that time, she served in the capacity of Parent Advocate. I have gotten to know Daria quite well and can thoroughly vouch for her character and abilities.

Daria is a pleasure to work with because her pleasant and positive attitude can make nearly any work seem enjoyable. She is quick to step forward and roll up her sleeves and commit to any task before her. She is often known to be the outspoken voice of reason in a situation that had the potential for getting out of hand. When we had someone in a parent session who would continuously interrupt, rather than getting upset, Daria would point out the positives and reinforce the reason for our gathering; the betterment of our children.

Concerning parent advocacy, Daria always took the initiative to make sure her work was done exceptionally well. She also made sure she was thoroughly prepared to participate at length in any discussions. Due to her love of this work and determination to spread her passion, Daria regularly showed up at any venue – public, private, parking lot, grocery store, or church inform and educate parents about the importance of educating their children. This is how she got the nickname, “The Face of PACE”.

Daria is also willing to work on areas she feels she could improve upon. She realized quickly during the early years of her employment at PACE that she would need to be a master of many talents. Public speaking was definitely a gift, however becoming knowledgeable about the needs of children and how to communicate that need to parents was a real challenge. She traveled the country learning how other non-profit organizations worked to support families in their community. She brought back those best practices to the Dayton community and worked to implement programming to benefit our families.

With her relentless motivation, her spirit of determination, and knowledge of our community, Daria would bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and skills to a position. I know she would be an excellent fit for your organization. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 937-228-7223

In Service,

Bonnie E. Smith

Bonnie E. Smith
Executive Director

PACE – The Center for College Access and Completion