

Documentation of Credibility, Professionalism, and Character

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to document my outstanding professional qualities, drawing upon a collection of professional evaluations, testimonials, and work products. The evidence consistently highlights my high level of credibility, exceptional professionalism, and admirable character as an educator and leader in STEM education.

Credibility and Expertise

My credibility is firmly established through sustained high-performance, scholarly contributions, and notable recognition within the education community:

- **"Highly Effective" Educator Status:** I received a summative rating of "**4.00 Highly Effective**" for the 2019-2020 school year from the Houston Independent School District.
- **Award-Winning and Recognized Leader:** I am a two-time recipient (2017-2018 and 2020-2021) of the prestigious [**Wilhelmina C. Robertson Excellence in Science or Mathematics Teaching Award**](#) presented by the Houston Museum of Natural Science and was a two-time recipient [**Classroom Teacher of the Year Finalist**](#) for the TCEA 2014-2015 and 2019-2020.
- **Scholarship and Research:** My manuscript, [**"Science in a Snapshot: Integrating AI and Photography to Transform Science Instruction."**](#) was praised as a "valuable and innovative contribution" and invited for revision by *Science and Children* journal.
- **Published Author:** I authored the article, [**"Science via Photography."**](#) in *Science and Children*, detailing my strategy to integrate digital media and photography into science instruction.
- **Media and Community Presence:** My innovative teaching has garnered media attention, including [appearances in a Fox 26 TV interview](#), a [Houston Life](#) episode and a feature in [The Buzz Magazine](#) for presenting student work with Dash robots and CoDrones at HISD's State of the Schools.
- **Expert Recommendation:** Principal Vanessa Flores described me as a "highly effective" teacher, a "technology leader", and an "asset to our school's improvement" who is "aware of our student data and prepares lessons based on the student data"

Professionalism and Leadership

I consistently demonstrates a high degree of professionalism, particularly in instructional leadership, innovation, and collaboration:

- [**Rice University Office of STEM Engagement**](#) highlights my professional credibility as a master of inquiry-based science and an experienced leader who consistently applies data-driven methods to enhance student learning
- [**Innovative Instruction:**](#) I actively incorporate modern techniques, including the use of **drones** in lessons, and secured a grant for [**mirrorless cameras**](#) to enhance photography-based science instruction.
- [**Collaborative Leadership and PD:**](#) I have proactively shared my expertise by offering professional development sessions on [**Inquiry-Based Learning and Phenomena-Driven Science**](#) with colleagues.

- **Effective Communication:** I employ a professional and systemic approach to positive parent communication, demonstrated by the use of template letters praising multiple students for their positive energy, enthusiasm for learning, and excitement for STEM.

Character and Impact

The files repeatedly attest to my positive character and the inspiring impact I have on students and parents:

- **Inspiration and Engagement:** A parent expressed gratitude for my help in making her daughters "keep seeing science as magical and exciting". Students consistently respond to my teaching with enthusiasm, with *Principal Chuneka Scott* noting, "She's so excited about STEM Lab!!" .
- **Outstanding Rapport:** Feedback highlights my strong classroom environment, including "Your rapport w/ students is amazing!", and my "level of patience you have with our students is commendable".
- **Positive Parent Feedback:** My proactive communication has resulted in numerous positive responses, with parents thanking me for my kind letters, including Lucas Pieschke's dad who "really appreciated the letter", and Mathis Crockett's mom who stated he is her son's "favorite teacher". Cameron Perkins' mother states, "he talks about your class the most."
- **Positive StudentFeedback:** A student's handwritten note of appreciation is the most valuable form of gratitude to a teacher.

In summary, the documents confirm that I am an exceptional educator with established credibility, a strong commitment to professional innovation and collaboration, and a profound, positive impact on my students and the school community.

Alex Jones, M.Ed.