



College of Education and Human Services
Department of Counseling and
Educational Leadership
Voice: 973-655-7216
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September 9, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in recommendation of Mrs. Ismat Abbas for your doctoral program. I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Mrs. Abbas over the past couple of years. Mrs. Abbas completed her Master of Arts in Educational Leadership degree at Montclair State University (MSU) in May 2017. I was her professor and I worked with her as she was an employee of my department – Department of Counseling and Educational Leadership. Her academic records in Pakistan and the United States show that she has consistently been a stellar student. Based on my personal knowledge and interactions with Mrs. Abbas, I believe she would be a tremendous asset to your program.

Throughout her graduate studies at MSU, Mrs. Abbas demonstrated a remarkable love for learning and great leadership qualities that endeared her peers. She worked exceptionally hard both in her classes and in her department responsibilities. She consistently produced quality work and exhibited excellent analytical skills. She also has excellent research skills as she helped me conduct legal research as well. She is very smart and quick to grasp course content. She also embraces challenges. In the various classes, she showed a notable ability to work effectively with diverse personalities and an eagerness to participate in class discussions. Her international background was also very enriching to the classes as she was able to compare the American system to the Pakistan system. I was impressed at the sacrifices she made leaving a very successful career in Pakistan to move to the United States with her family. She quickly acclimated to MSU and was beloved in the department. She was always willing to offer extra support to the department beyond her job responsibilities. She was an integral part of faculty and staff search committees. As the chair of the search committee for the Higher Education Leadership Program, I had several conversations with her about academia. It was during these conversations that I encouraged her to pursue a doctoral degree as I believe she would be an excellent academic. I believe she has a wealth of knowledge to contribute. She has the intellect, acumen, inquisitive mind, and work ethic essential for success in your doctoral program.

During her time at MSU, I got to know and admire Mrs. Abbas' dedication to her son who has autism. She is excellent mom who is willing to make sacrifices to support her son and other children who have autism. It is because of this personal passion that she is excited to return to school to study in the Urban Health Track at Rutgers University. She already completed a doctoral course in the program in summer 2017 and is eager to be a part of the program on a full-time basis. She wants to examine the mental health care available to children with autism and contribute to knowledge that would expand the mental health care services. She is also invested in learning how to help children with autism socially and financially independent. As an empathetic mom of a child with autism, she wants to help other parents better understand how to support their children. I believe your program would provide the best training for her. This program will also help her to better serve students and families in the Hoboken School District who have children with autism.



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Finally, I would be remiss without adding that Mrs. Abbas has excellent interpersonal skills. I believe both faculty and students would enjoy having her in class and love her contributions to class discussions. It is without hesitation that I recommend her for admission to your doctoral program. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph Oluwale

Joseph Oluwale, J.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Attorney at Law