



EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER
NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMMUNITY OF CARING
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION | THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Caring • Respect • Responsibility • Trust • Family

April 1, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

As Executive Director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Center for Community of Caring, I am writing an **unsolicited letter of support and praise for Tracy Schiffmann**, from Schiffmann Curriculum Design and Training.

Tracy worked with us to revise our curriculum that had first been developed over 25 years ago. There were not only changes that needed to be made in terms of the conceptual and theoretical framework, but also in terms of ensuring the inclusion of all of the successful organic changes that schools had made over the 25+ years of implementing Community of Caring. We received over 15 applications from various individuals and companies to assist in revising our curriculum. Tracy was initially selected as our consultant because of her understanding that the curriculum is a process-based curriculum, not a “how to” or “step-by-step” curriculum. Little did we know, how very engaged and in-depth she would become in helping us create a clearer vision of our organization’s culture and climate.

First, Tracy came to the University of Utah and spent time with me, getting to know my thoughts and ideas for the direction of the new curriculum. The process that she engaged me in was critical in getting the changes from my head onto the paper. Tracy then traveled to Kansas City to spend time with our Professional Development Director, Penny Keith, where she engaged Penny in a similar process and managed to get her 25+ years of experience in providing professional development to schools embedded into the new curriculum. Tracy then traveled to Pennsylvania to see Community of Caring in Action in one of our award winning schools, Upper Merion Middle School. Here, Tracy had the opportunity to observe a professional development workshop and mentoring session as well as interacting with the school personnel and students. From these experiences, Tracy was able to incorporate the *process* of changing school culture and climate into the curriculum – no small feat!

Tracy’s professionalism is unmatched. As a small non-profit, we are often pulled in multiple directions and Tracy’s guidance helped us complete a task while we were in the midst of a great deal of organizational change. Tracy is also very personable. We were always excited when she came to be with us and saddened when it was time for her to head back to Oregon. I simply cannot say enough good things about Tracy – her dedication, attention to detail, and her delightful personality are just a few of the many wonderful characteristics that spurred me to write this unconditional letter of praise for her.

If you’d like to talk with me more about Tracy, please do not hesitate to contact me at (801) 581-6017.

Sincerely,

Paula Smith, Ph.D.