

Reference and endorsement

Reference: Lila PRICE

25 September

I am more than happy to provide a reference and an endorsement for Lila. During her time at Swinburne Senior Secondary College we had a number of long conversations about teaching and learning. In moving about the school and especially observing her in the library and the art areas, I observed her as she worked with a range of different students with different needs. From speaking with others as well, she is clearly an innovative, skilled practitioner who made genuine connections with students and colleagues.

Lila has strong interpersonal skills and is generous with her time and advice. I sought her opinion on using aspects of art and visual language as part of the areas of study involving media techniques and the use of visual persuasion in VCE English classes. I studied Art and Design at The Mill at Deakin University for three years in the 1980's so Lila was able to provide relevant updated information and awareness of trends that I may have not been attuned to having not taught the subject since being an Art Co-ordinator prior to teaching at Northern Bay Senior College. We often discussed at length the special context and circumstances of teaching both theory based and practical subjects at a unique place like Swinburne. Lila quickly developed an awareness and an understanding of the special needs of Swinburne students, their learning styles and the means of developing engaging lesson content.

Lila fitted in very well at Swinburne in semester one. Her colleagues were impressed with her general teaching and her determination to help and assist a number of students who struggled with areas of their learning and with aspects of literacy. She provided generous guidance to a number of students to assist them to meet their VCE obligations during the busy time at the end of term two. Lila gave significant time, working with some students late into the afternoon on a number of occasions.

Lila's strengths in terms of student engagement would be her ability to connect and work with and for students, to develop confidence, gain trust and to help them reach their potential. I watched her during my Study Support sessions where she met with small study groups nearby. Lila was clearly also skilled at helping students who struggled with written instructions by helping them maintain interest through a range of well-tuned strategies.

Lila would be a very valuable addition to any staff. She is vibrant, energetic and a team player.

Glenn Leslie 25 September
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