

# Jennifer "Rita" Platt

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Dear Hiring Committee:

I am honored to write a letter of recommendation for Chris Wondra. Over the past four years I have had the privilege of working with him as we collaborated on projects in curriculum, instruction, assessment, and our own professional development. In addition, Mr. Wondra and I have worked together numerous times to write educational articles, publish them, and share them with the education community. In this regard, Mr. Wondra has been my mentor, my editor, and my writing coach. I know him to be a thoroughly capable teacher and an all-around outstanding colleague. Mr. Wondra is a perfect candidate for a position as communications instructor.

A peek into Mr. Wondra's classroom leaves one with no doubt about the kind of teacher he is. The students in his care are thoroughly engaged in the learning process. Mr. Wondra structures lessons around the district benchmarks in such a way that they are collaborative, hands-on, challenging at multiple levels, technology-rich and relevant to students' lives. He weaves together for students various assessments, one-on-one and small group academic conferences, and academic goal-setting. The end result is what amounts to an individualized learning plan for each of his students that merges state standards with individual student wants and needs. I am so impressed with his planning that I have suggested on several occasions that he consider publishing his unique and very effective reading/writing program.

Mr. Wondra makes continuous improvement a part of his daily quest for professional and personal development. He consistently models setting and working toward goals for his students. Two years ago we began to work together to bring the reading / writing workshop model into his classroom. Mr. Wondra attacked the plan with the entirety of his talent, commitment, and enthusiasm. As he made the changes in his teaching to allow his students voice and choice in their learning he demonstrated creativity in his ability to problem-solve and flexibly apply changes to insure that each student's needs were being met. Moreover, he is a willing and active servant to his colleagues and community, striving to share his new learnings as the leader of a school-based Professional Learning Community, a popular educational columnist in a local newspaper, and the founder and administrator of the professional development website, *We Teach We Learn*.

Chris Wondra is a perfect candidate for a communications instructor. He is one of the best teachers and team players that I have had the opportunity to work with. It is a pleasure to work collaboratively with Mr. Wondra because he is such a bright, dedicated, and enthusiastic educator. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance to Mr. Wondra.

Sincerely,

Rita Platt

Literacy /Library Media Specialist & Professional Developer  
St. Croix Falls School District & Minneapolis Public Schools