

February 21, 2016



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

For the past twenty-three years, I have enjoyed and continued association with the University of Alabama's Theatre and Dance Program. In this capacity, I have known Mrs. Allison Hetzel as a treasured colleague and friend. I have enjoyed working with Allison very much and have a tremendous amount of respect for her. She is a professional in every sense of the world.

She arrives to the classroom fully prepared and energized to face a room of young scholars daily. The quality of Mrs. Hetzel that I appreciate the most is her willingness to do whatever is needed of her. She has the ability to work with any level student and never complains about what has been assigned to her. Allison walks into the classroom, assesses the situation, and then finds assignments that truly pushes them and challenges them academically and demands excellence from them. She enhances the total experience for the young scholars and relates to the students in a way that very few faculty members are able to achieve. The young scholars love her because she teaches them more than just what is in the book. She offers valuable advice to students about how to handle themselves in situations that are sure to occur in their careers.

In my experience, there are generally two types of instructors. One group teaches class, and the other is interested in students and the quality of their experiences in the program and is willing to give beyond the classroom to ensure that students learn – Allison falls in the second group.

I have known Mrs. Hetzel in many capacities, as a scholar, teacher, administrator, and as a great speech coach. It is clear to me that she is one of the most self-motivated, and eager people I know. Traditionally we think of needing to be in New York to accomplish some of the things she has already accomplished here. She has been able to keep abreast with many trends and every changing styles in the world of theatre, as well as keeping in communication with many people who are in the forefront, while working at UA. That connection to the outside world allows the students to make connections with people they have neither seen nor met, but they will know because of the teachings of Mrs. Hetzel. Bringing a sense of worldliness to not only academia but also our students professional development allows for them to compete and perform on the national stage. Through her vision, dedication, and sincerity she has served as a catalyst for the advancement of our program. I strongly recommend Mrs. Hetzel for the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cornelius Carter".

Professor Cornelius Carter
Director of the Dance Program

