

## **Letter of Recommendation – EMU Outstanding Supplemental Instruction Leader**

Nominee's name: Laura Weakland

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Award category: Outstanding Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leader

Reason for nomination: Laura was astonishing in her role as SI for PHY 100, Physics for Elementary Teachers during the Fall 2005 semester. She went above and beyond the call of duty by generously extending her 51 sessions to both sections of my PHY 100 classes (each having 55 students), rather than just the one she was officially signed on for. She made up handouts and worksheets for the students, shared her 5th grade son's science work that was relevant for our class to give the students some real world examples, and kept me informed as to the progress that she and the students were making-- which helped me to adjust and improve my teaching. I saw a MARKED increase in students' test grades after they started attending Laura's sessions. It was not just due to the fact that they were spending more time on the material (which was in itself an accomplishment), but that they were also gaining an understanding of the importance of their learning process from Laura, an ex- student of mine, who had "*been there and done that.*" Laura did all of this while taking classes, being a mother of two (e.g. "*non-traditional*" and commuting student), AND running an after-school science program in her home district of South Lyon (as a volunteer!). One would be hard-pressed to find a more selfless, dedicated, and capable teacher as Laura.

Sender's name: Dr. Bonnie Wylo

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