

January 22, 2017

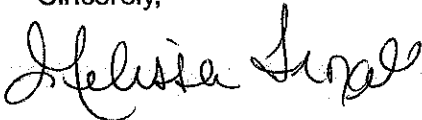
Dear Selection Committee:

When I think of Kim Blevins, I always see her smile, her unabashed joy for life, and then I see her walking around her classroom, conferring with her students, encouraging them to find their voices. I met Kim Blevins through the Ozarks Writing Project, and I hoped that we would get the chance to work together because of her spirit, creativity, and enthusiasm. For the last three years she and I have taught together at Willard High School, and it has been such a blessing.

Kim Blevins loves writing, and she encourages others to love it also. Whether she is creating and presenting new and inventive ways to inspire teachers or she is teaching and inspiring those young people, Kim has a way of making writing accessible, of making everyone feel like an artist with words. In her classroom, her creativity with projects like Grow a Heart Wouldja or Commonplace Books helped students find their voices and to reflect on their learning. Recently I judged a poetry slam she arranged for her students, and her students, although nervous, all felt that they could do it in large part because she helped them see their potential. She seeks new ideas and crafts new avenues to learning all the time, finding inspiration from reading and from the world around her. She has pushed my teaching forward and supported me in my teaching inventions and endeavors. It has been wonderful to work with her.

It is my honor to recommend Kim Blevins to you; she will be an asset wherever she is. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 417-742-2588, extension 2628, or e-mail me at [mtroxell@willardmiddle.net](mailto:mtroxell@willardmiddle.net).

Sincerely,



Melissa Troxell  
Willard Middle School  
Instructional Coach  
Ozarks Writing Project Teaching Consultant  
LAD Fair Chair  
Writers Hall of Fame Board