



ICARDA International School of Aleppo

*A coeducational day school serving the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
providing academic excellence and an international vision for the children of the world*



Robert E Thompson
Head of School

September 23, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Mary Alice Osborne

Mary Alice Osborne is a very unusual educator. She is multi-talented and has tremendous dedication to making the very best of her work. She is not only an excellent librarian, but brings great artistic and organizational talent to her work as well.

In her first year at ACST (2004-05), when I was in my last year as director, she was called upon to help design the layout of the new secondary library. She contributed many new ideas in how to use the large space that was being built to maximum advantage. Eventually she was rewarded with an exceptionally beautiful and functional new library at mid-year. All through that year of transition to the new facility she initiated many new activities designed to involve students in the library and its services. She began monthly thematic programs where faculty, students and invited guests would present information of interest. I understand that these activities have continued to the current school year. She was able to upgrade the library computer software to the latest from Follett sorting out a problem with the electronic catalog that had plagued the library for years. The responsibility of managing all AV equipment was transferred to the library clearing up years of mismanagement of those resources. She began the process of adding online databases to bolster the information available for students. The library became a place to display student art. Drama and music productions were held in the library for the first time. She managed the production of the yearbook and that turned out to be the best designed book that ACST had up to that point. She has been active in fighting plagiarism through many library initiatives. Her list of accomplishments is outstanding and too long to list here.

Without reservation I give Mary Alice Osborne my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Robert E Thompson
Head of School

