Brock University
Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2S 3A1
T: 905-688-5550, Ext. 3259 F: 905-984-4843
www.brocku.ca

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter of support for Shannon McLeod. Shannon is one of the more remarkable students that has graduated from the outdoor recreation concentration of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at Brock University, where I work as an Associate Professor. This is how I know Shannon.

Shannon has a rare (and infectious) enthusiasm for academic work (and life!). I have had the privilege of getting to know Shannon not only through classroom teaching but through our participation on several wilderness trips with other outdoor recreation students. Shannon excels both in the classroom and out of the classroom. Shannon is valued by faculty, staff, and her peers alike for her capacity to work well with others and for her passion. I distinctly remember a co-leader of a backpacking trip returning to campus post-trip and declaring, "that girl outta' say more in class. She is smart and hilarious!"

Shannon's participation on the many field courses that she has attended during her years at Brock have displayed her additional capacities, including: generosity of spirit, grace, enthusiasm, honesty , as well as leadership and technical outdoor skill and teaching expertise. Her peers describe her as: smart; funny; easy-going; passionate; a high sense of expectations; a keen desire to know and understand the world; and an all around talented outdoor leader and teacher.

Throughout her tenure at Brock, I had the privilege of witnessing Shannon grow and mature both as a person and in her pedagogical praxis. She is a skilled multi-tasker and able to balance the competing demands of school and work life well. I would consider it a privilege to have Shannon as a student in my own classroom and believe that her presence would enrich any program. I can only begin to imagine what an exceptional teacher she will be.

Mary C. Breunig