



January, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

University of California, Irvine
School of Education
3200 Education Building
Irvine, CA 92697-5500

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of the Tilly Life Center (TLC). I have worked with Tilly Levine and her staff for the last three and a half years. As a faculty member in the School of Education, at the University of California, Irvine, I have taught an Ethics and Education class for undergraduates for the last 17 years. Through that time, I have searched for programs that bring theory into practice and make character development a real possibility. I found one such place.

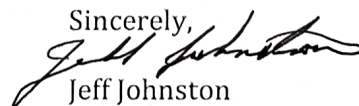
In the fall of 2016, a TLC professional and I taught UCI undergraduate students the TLC "I am Me" program. Each student experienced the various life skill lessons such as "I am Forgiving", "I am Kind", "I am Authentic", "I am Myself", et al. We lived the program. I was amazed and inspired of the instant impact on our class and on each individual. In a mere 10 weeks, we began building true community in which shy students opened up and confided in their classmates as we journeyed together through personal discoveries and vulnerable moments. When I read the student's final paper reflecting on their experience with the TLC program it became consistently evident that their personal growth was profound, and their introspection was genuine and significant. Many claimed it was their finest academic experience precisely because it felt "real" as opposed to simply studying new knowledge. It was a deep, ever questioning self-discovery with the ultimate result of fostering new behaviors to create a better self, and in turn a better community...world.

In the following academic winter quarter these same students worked in high school settings where they assisted TLC facilitators in delivering the program to teenagers. Again, their experience was profound and valuable. Moreover, our UCI students have direct experiences that relate to their major: education. Connecting to students, building rapport, and leading younger students while inspiring these teenagers to college possibilities serve both age groups. Overall, our UCI students were grateful, touched, and felt the value of the TLC program from an educational and personal perspective. Recently, after this pilot tested class was completed and its effectiveness thoroughly evaluated, UCI has approved the class as a permanent part of our School of Education.

This past fall of 2018, I led the UC Irvine class (with a TLC staff member assisting). I felt comfortable teaching the TLC curriculum, and the evaluations for the class were very high and far above the university average. I plan to keep teaching this class each Fall quarter.

On both a professional and personal note, I have found the TLC staff to authentically embody the spirit and the purpose of their program. As I have worked and socialized with them, it is evident that each person on this staff evokes an attitude of caring, thoughtfulness, and moral responsibility toward their mission. They not only "practice what they preach", but do it in such a joyful and contagious spirit. It has fueled me in my own daily work towards fulfilling both my academic and personal motivations to simply make a contribution to this critical subject matter.

If I can be of more support of the TLC, please contact me at jmjohnst@uci.edu. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Johnston
Faculty, School of Education
UC Irvine



Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District

February 8, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the honor to work with Tilly Levine and Tilly's Life Center for six years and have seen the magic created between students and her facilitators. As the Superintendent of Schools for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District, I believe there is nothing more important that empowering students to find their voice, recognize their own strengths, learn to manage their weaknesses, and discover that others see value in them. Tilly's Life Center is dedicated to helping students discover the beauty within and then helping them to discover joy in providing service to others.

In my role, I am protective of the people I allow access to our students. Tilly and her team have unrestricted access to our students due to the trust they have earned. They align actions and behaviors with the promises they make to our school district and the covenants they form with our kids. Having the opportunity to work with them in two school districts, I feel blessed to have selfless partners with pure intent and a powerful purpose. The facilitators are gifted and consistently prepared through a rigorous training program that ensures quality and appropriate responses to students sharing personal information.

Tilly's Life Center courses became part of the traditional bell schedule in one of my districts and is on the way to reaching the same place in Palos Verdes. I have not had a single negative or disappointing interaction or experience with Tilly's Life Center. Additionally, they have been exceedingly responsive, singularly driven to help kids, and infinitely professional.

I give Tilly's Life Center a recommendation reserved for only the most elite. I am thankful that my name is attached to their work and that our students have benefitted from their tireless work.

Sincerely,

Donald B. Austin, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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Courtney Robinson, Ed. D (*Principal*)

Andrew Walanski, Marilyn Palomino, Kevin Seidel, *Assistant Principals*

April 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter on behalf of the TLC that Tilly Levine, along with her incredible staff, has brought to Ocean View High School. About four years ago, as an Assistant Principal, I was introduced to the program and I immediately became excited about the opportunity to implement it with our students. As long as I have been in education, there are always students who need something more than what we have been able to provide for them during the school day. The students today have an increased amount of stress and anxiety and they do not always have someone at home they can turn to for help. What the TLC program has done is help teens take a deep look at themselves and how they have chosen to respond to their life situations. It has also helped our students develop trusting relationships with more adults outside of our staff.

In our time working with the team from TLC, we have taken a lot of time to reflect and adjust what we have done to constantly improve the way we run the class to make it better for students each year. The facilitators from TLC have always been open to our suggestions and they have been willing to make suggestions to help us implement the curriculum with our students. TLC has a great training program for our teachers, as well. The facilitators that have been at our school have been amazing. Our students love them and they are so good to our students. We have had a lot of successes with our students who have been through the program. Their attendance has improved and their grades are better. Ocean View has been very fortunate to participate in the TLC program and we look forward to continuing our work with them.

Should you need any more information, feel free to contact me at (714) 848-0656 extension 4401.

Thank you,

Courtney Robinson, Ed.D.
Principal, Ocean View High School