



SCHOOL OF
**THEATRE, DANCE,
AND FILM**
Illinois State University

School of Theatre, Dance & Film
212 Milner Library 111A
Campus Box 5700
Normal, IL 61790-5700
Telephone: (309) 438-8783
Facsimile: (309) 438-5806
TDD: (309) 438-8620

April 1, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Emilia Dvorak, whom I have had the pleasure of working with in our theatre teacher education program at Illinois State University.

Emilia is a returning student who previously earned her degree in acting and has come back to complete her certification in theatre teacher education. She brings with her a wealth of professional experience that enriches our classroom in meaningful ways. Her perspective as a working artist provides valuable insight for her peers and elevates the level of discussion and application in our work together.

Emilia is a highly conscientious student who consistently demonstrates curiosity, thoughtfulness, and a strong commitment to her growth as an educator. She asks insightful questions that push both herself and those around her to think more deeply. As a collaborator, she is exceptional, approaching group work with generosity, clarity, and a strong sense of shared purpose.

Her work ethic is outstanding. Emilia is a dedicated and hardworking student who is not afraid to take risks in her learning and teaching practice. She embraces challenges with openness and determination, continually striving to improve and refine her skills.

What stands out most is Emilia's natural presence in front of students. She has an ease and authenticity in her teaching that is difficult to teach and even harder to develop. She creates an environment that is engaging, supportive, and grounded, allowing students to feel both challenged and cared for. This disposition, combined with her artistic background and pedagogical training, makes her an exceptional emerging educator.

Emilia is a student I trust and respect deeply. I am confident that she will make a meaningful and lasting impact in any classroom or community she joins.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.D. Chrismon".

James D. Chrismon, EdD

Assistant Professor, Theatre Teacher Education

Illinois State University



NORMAL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

3900 East Raab Road | Normal, Illinois 61761 | Phone (309) 557-4401 | Website: www.unit5.org/NCHS

To whom it may concern,

My name is Cassie Adelman. I am the theatre teacher and director at Normal Community High School. During my time here, I have gotten to work with Emilia Dvorak as a clinical student observing and assisting in my Theatre II class.

Throughout the time that I have gotten to work with Emilia, she has shown herself to not just complete a job that she is given but complete it thoroughly with great attention to detail and knowledge. As part of her clinical responsibilities, she was tasked with preparing and leading three lessons as part of a mini unit. She elected to teach a lesson on Uta Hagen's acting technique. In which, she demonstrated a deep understanding of high level theatrical elements and implemented cut down readings of dense academic texts. On top of this, she created detailed lesson plans that made excellent use of state and national standards. While still early in Emilia's teaching career and with more experience to be gained, Emilia proves that she is well versed in her field and cares deeply about the minute details of its teaching.

On top of knowledge and detail, I believe that Emilia's biggest strength is seen in her work ethic and motivation in the classroom. In past experiences with TCH 216 placements, it has been the expectation that the first few weeks be primarily allowed for students to observe the classroom environment for a few weeks before eventually taking on some teacher-like responsibilities. Emilia, though, showed no hesitation to pick up such responsibilities. She asked early on to learn more about the students, the curriculum, and what she could do to aid in the teaching process. In my eyes, this shows someone eager to learn with a determined work ethic of a life long learner as well as teacher.

Should there be any further questions about Emilia's capabilities, I would be happy to talk further at adelmac@unit5.org.

Sincerely,

Cassandra M. Adelman