

Department of Biobehavioral Health Science (MC 802)
845 South Damen Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60612-7350

5/27/2011

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Elizabeth A. Bryant-Richards

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Beth Ann Bryant-Richards for a teaching position in your program. Our professional association has been twofold: Beth Ann assisted me with editing and revising parts of my dissertation, (*Fatigue in Women with Type 2 Diabetes*), and I have since consulted with her for help with teaching strategies in the Department of Biobehavioral Health Science in the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

My dissertation topic, while naturally building on previous research, was a new inquiry into diabetes research, rather than a re-working of the research of others. This demanded much careful attention to craft the parts of the dissertation that would be of high interest to others working in the field. Beth Ann read these portions and provided feedback to me, both in writing and verbally. The feedback she gave me was specific and constructive. Her feedback was designed to make the work clearer and more accessible, while still maintaining the conventions expected in my field. Her comments on my dissertation, which is currently under consideration by *The Journal of Diabetes and its Complications*, were invaluable.

When I began teaching in the College of Nursing in 2008, I asked to teach a 7-hour course for entering nursing students with only two weeks notice. I not only encountered a very different professor/student culture than what I had become accustomed to as an undergraduate, but desperately needed basic mentoring in teaching/learning strategies. In discussions with Beth Ann about how to handle some of the issues I have encountered, I came to see that she has a grounded teaching philosophy. She advised me to remain firm about the academic goals of my courses, and she gave me tips and strategies for doing so. Beth Ann explained how and when it might be best to be flexible, and she even provided ideas about making my office hours more fruitful. Her advice has been a godsend. Through her years of experience teaching "high maintenance" first year students at DePaul,

she has developed a sense of how to get the best out of her students and she has generously passed on that information to me.

In my conversations with Beth Ann, I have noted her infectious enthusiasm for teaching, for writing, and for her students. She is a natural leader, and has been a tireless mentor to me as I embark on my own teaching career. She deserves your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Fritschi". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Cynthia Fritschi, PhD, RN, APN, CDE

Clinical Assistant Professor

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