



August 1, 2021

To whom it may concern,

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Dawne Swearingen Meeks for a full professorship at Abilene Christian University.

I can speak about Dawne on several levels. I have known her since I first met her as a client when she was a recent Abilene graduate. What a talented young lady she was! And what a marvelous, supportive family she had! Her talent was supplemented by her deep faith that gave her the strength to pursue a career in such a business of both joy and rejection. Despite her success, it soon became clear that Dawne wanted more, so I was not surprised when she told me she had decided to enter the academic world and return to the university she so loved, as a faculty member in the theater department.

I was honored several years later when she invited me to visit as a guest to speak to the students and see their senior showcase. Since then I have visited a number of times. Each time she always asks, "What can I do to make it better?" And each time she runs with my suggestions, whether it be starting a full dance track, which she did four years ago, to make the graduates real "triple threats," to beginning a New York showcase for graduating seniors to introduce them to casting and representation in the real world.

Her commitment to diversity initiatives preceded the current industry-wide awareness by a number of years. She has included people of color and LGBTQ advocates for quite a while.

Despite the raging pandemic, she increased the incoming freshman numbers from 12 to 21 this year.

The ongoing care and love for her students is palpable and genuine. Dawne is committed to Abilene, her family and to God. Abilene Christian University will be fortunate to have Dawne as a full professor.

Respectfully,

Nancy Carson
President Carson-Adler Agency, Inc.

250 West 57th Street, Suite 2030, NYC 10107
212-307-1882
www.carsonadler.com

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