

## *Robin W. Houston*

9031 Volta Street • Lanham, Maryland, 20706  
(301) 728-5131 • robin3152@verizon.net

I am writing this essay to ask you to consider granting a scholarship so that I can attend the teacher/mentor program Space Camp July 25-31, 2015. I am a Special Education Teacher in the Prince George's County Public School System in Maryland by day and a STEM group facilitator/enthusiast by after school, evenings and weekends. For the past four years, I have committed time, finances and passion to providing quality STEM experiences for elementary and middle school-aged children from underserved and unrepresented cultural groups in the STEM career fields. These grossly underexposed yet highly capable and motivated students are living in suburbia Maryland which is comprised of families of varying economic levels; just minutes from our nation's capital.

Over the past few weeks, I have been working closely with Thurman Jones of Patriot's Technology Training Center in Seat Pleasant MD as the coordinator for the Solar System Competition—a space science related competition Patriots hosts annually. The competition season, in times past as well as this year, ends with a trip to Space Camp for the winning team and the team's coach/mentor. As the coordinator, I will not be able to coach a team to victory this year and attend the Camp. However, with your assistance, via scholarship, I will be able to participate in this once in a lifetime adventure!

The Space Camp program has all of the elements that I incorporate into the programs I facilitate-- teamwork, exposure to new concepts, hands-on and minds-on activities, project-based real-world tasks, and plain old fashioned fun! The week at Camp would give me a fresh perspective on ways to present educational challenges to my students and exposure to space science in an unprecedented manner!

I cannot express how much this opportunity would mean to me and the direct impact it will have on the students I mentor. Thank you for considering my request. I hope to have the opportunity to meet your team as a Space Camp participant summer 2015.

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## **EDUCATION**

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**Master of Arts**  
***Deaf Education-Multiply Handicapped Hearing Impaired***  
Gallaudet University, Washington, DC, 1989

**Bachelors of Arts**  
***Special Education***  
The George Washington University, Washington, DC, 1986

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**8/2011 –Current**  
**Special Education Resource Teacher**

**Prince Georges County Public Schools**  
**Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772**

- Provided intensive educational support to special education children in both inclusive and pull out settings
- Tested, observed, and reported results of individual academic achievement assessments
- Acquired national and local grant funding and in-kind sponsorship from organizations such as National Society of Black Engineers, Patriot's Tech Training Center, National Securities Technologies and Society of Automotive Engineers for innovative instruction in STEM education.
- Created and facilitated multiple after school clubs to encourage elementary-age students to enter the pipeline leading to careers in STEM related fields.

**1/2011 –8/2011**  
**Parent Development Trainer**

**Prince Georges County Public Schools**  
**Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772**

- Developed and presented Capacity-Building workshops for Parents in order to engage them in their children's education, and empower them to impact their children's academic success
- Partnered with The Civil Air Patrol and The National Society of Black Engineers to launch an aerospace engineering and STEM program for elementary students at a public elementary school.
- Facilitated the development of a local PTA, including expanding their program offerings, improving communication with parents (in English and Spanish), and enlisting the increased involvement of parents on elementary school campus

**12/2007 – 8/2011**  
**Community Organizer/Consultant**

**Epilepsy Foundation Metropolitan Washington**  
**Landover, Maryland 20785**

- Planned and facilitated parent, school, community organization and business epilepsy awareness and education training
- Organized and conducted community events such as forums, support groups, fairs, meetings and major initiatives

- Created EFMW training materials – Power Point format and related handouts for trainers and community constituents

**8/1995 – 7/2002**  
**Itinerant Hearing Teacher**

**Prince George's County Public Schools**  
**Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772**

- Provided full service support to hearing impaired students, from initial referral to in-school support, to acquiring needed resources
- Worked with Multi-Disciplinary Teams of various schools to determine eligibility of hearing-impaired children for special education services
- Tested, observed, and reported results of individual academic achievement assessments
- Serviced children through direct instruction
- Presented at faculty and staff in-services/workshops
- Assisted students with disabilities and their families acquire needed equipment and community resources

**8/1990 – 7/1995**  
**Special Education Resource Room Teacher**

**Prince George's County Public Schools**  
**Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772**

- Provided intensive educational support to special education children in a "resource room" environment
- Facilitated Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings to discuss teacher and parent concerns regarding student's academic, social or physical challenges
- Tested, observed, and reported results of individual academic achievement assessments
- Served as member of the School Based Management Team in an effort to improve teacher and student performance; encouraged a productive work environment and addressed strategies to maximize school programs and budget.
- Conducted workshops that empowered teachers and staff to modify instruction and accommodate students with disabilities

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

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- 2011 – Current, Advanced Professional Certificate, Special Education and Multi-Handicapped Deaf
- 2011– 2012, Aerospace Education Teacher/Mentor, Civil Air Patrol
- 2011– Current, Maryland State Education Association

## **AVAILABILITY**

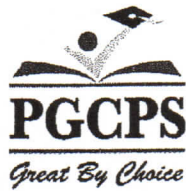
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- School Year 2013-14

## **REFERENCES**

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- Available upon request



## Lewisdale Elementary School

2400 Banning Place  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20783  
301-445-8433 / 301-431-5654(Fax)  
Patricia Haith, Principal

March 31, 2015

To whom it may concern:

Robin Houston has served as Special Education Resource Teacher and department chairperson for three years at Lewisdale Elementary School under my supervision. This Letter of Recommendation to attend the Teacher Program at Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, is without reservation as I would highly recommend her for this and any other position she is seeking.

Beyond responsibilities of the instructional day at Lewisdale, Mrs. Houston created and simultaneously facilitated two after school STEM Clubs - the Engineering Club using the Society of Automobile Engineers kits and curriculum and the Robotics Club using the Lego Mindstorm Kits and First Lego League format. Both clubs afforded children the opportunities to participate in project-based real-world tasks. Mrs. Houston actively sought and received in-kind sponsorships, grants, partnerships and materials from local and national organizations to support the programs. Participants of the clubs were able to travel with Mrs. Houston to regional and national conferences with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and Patriot Technology Training Center. The team placed first in the NSBE KidZone Science Olympiad while participating at the National Conference in Indianapolis Spring of 2013. Although Mrs. Houston has left Lewisdale Elementary School to become one of four Itinerant Hearing Teachers in the County Public School System and is not teaching under my direct supervision at this time, she returns once per week to lead our current S.T.E.A.M. Club: Robotic program.

I am confident Mrs. Houston will be an asset to your program.

Sincerely,

Patricia Haith, Principal  
Lewisdale Elementary School



**Prince George's County Public Schools - ESOL Office**  
**8908 Riggs Rd., Adelphi, MD 20783**  
**301-445-8450(O) 301-445-8457(FAX)**

July 5, 2011

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Robin Houston for the position of Special Education teacher for Prince George's County Public Schools. Robin's education and experience make her a highly qualified candidate for this position.

Robin has worked this year for the ESOL Department as a Parent Development Trainer and ESL teacher. In that capacity, she has demonstrated her creativity as an instructor by developing engaging, authentic professional development and ESL classes on a regular basis. She is punctual, responsible, and willing to assume challenging tasks. Likewise, she challenges her students to go "beyond the call" in order to excel. She is proficient with technology, and incorporates it into her classes on a regular basis in order to enrich instruction, and tap the learning styles of a wide variety of students.

Robin is knowledgeable about the special needs of many populations of students. She has worked with students who have significant learning disabilities, as well as students with hearing loss and students with epilepsy. She is familiar with the legal expectations of IDEA, as well as the legally mandated evaluation process of testing and IEP development. She is a former Special Education teacher with the county who took time off work to be with family and to broaden her personal and professional expertise. She brings a substantial repertoire of experience and knowledge to the table, including the practical application of the gamut of legal expectations inherent within the field of special education.

Robin is personable, and works well with others. She has leadership qualities that enable her to work well within a team environment. While most of her experience is with elementary aged students, she works well with all age ranges, from young children to adults. She is committed to excellence, both personally and professionally, and conveys those expectations to students, thereby enabling them to achieve their "personal best" as well. Robin demonstrates the qualities needed in the professional teaching staff in Prince George's County Public Schools. It is without reservation that I recommend her for this position.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandi Jimenez'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Sandi Jimenez  
ESOL Office



**EPILEPSY  
FOUNDATION®**  
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

*Not another moment lost to seizures™*

8301 Professional Place East, Landover, MD 20785-2353

February 9, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter of reference is written in support of Robin Houston who was employed as Community Organizer & Outreach Coordinator with the Epilepsy Foundation Metropolitan Washington for 2½ years. She currently serves as a consultant.

Mrs. Houston's contribution to the Epilepsy Foundation Metropolitan Washington and individuals & families with epilepsy has been significant. She has twice coordinated our annual exhibit at the NBC4 Health and Fitness Expo and led similar efforts at other community-based health fairs and events. She conducted epilepsy awareness and education sessions and workshops at schools, churches, and businesses throughout the Metropolitan Washington area. She has also facilitated monthly support group meetings and assisted with fundraising projects.

Based on my personal observations and the feedback of colleagues and clients, Mrs. Houston is a consummate professional with the requisite subject matter knowledge and personal warmth needed to effectively engage our target population. For these reasons, it is indeed a pleasure for me to recommend Mrs. Houston to you for the position that she is seeking. I am confident that she will be an asset to your organization.

I am available to answer any questions that you might have. Please feel free to contact me by telephone at (301) 918-2117 or email [vjackson@efa.org](mailto:vjackson@efa.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Vera R. Jackson