

January 8, 2025

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing this letter to strongly recommend Catherine Schoemaker for the Master of Nursing NP Program at the University of Alberta. I began working with Catherine when she began her health care journey as a Health Care Aid. She transitioned to a nursing student in June 2018, a Graduate Nurse in May 2019 and a Registered Nurse in August 2019. I have had the pleasure of observing her growth and sincere dedication to the profession. Catherine is unlike any nursing colleague I have encountered in my Nursing career. Immediately what is abundantly obvious is her genuine compassion and advocacy for patients and a very palpable eagerness to expand her knowledge.

On a busy acute surgical unit there often is not much time spent on developing and nurturing patient relationships. Catherine prioritizes this, as she sees the value in building partnerships with patients and families. She approaches patients holistically, taking the time to engage and learn about them. Catherine is a strong advocate for patients. She spends time thoroughly researching patients, questions care plans and seeks out resources to help better support and provide care for patients.

Her approach stands out amongst the many nurses she works with. She enjoys a challenge and shows up with an eagerness to learn. She takes time outside of work to expand her knowledge and gain clarity on medical conditions, unit processes, and skills. She is prudent in looking up resources, such as understanding a medication protocol, or researching what resources are available to a newly trained charge nurse. She has approached me countless times on her own time, to ask questions, gain clarity, and express her suggestions for improvement on the unit. She actively participates in educational offerings and enthusiastically contributes to building strong collaborative relationships with the multidisciplinary team. She asks probing questions and is genuinely dedicated in bringing the health care team together in the best interest of the patient and their family.

Her compassion is inspiring. She takes her job seriously; has a keen and unique understanding of the privilege it is to have the opportunity to care for people in their most vulnerable moments.

Her leadership skills have blossomed, and she has organically developed a leadership style as a charge nurse which in turn has seamlessly translated into her growth as a bedside nurse.

She loves to learn, is incredibly passionate and will entirely devote herself to the NP program.

Hearing of her interest in applying to an NP program gives me great hope. I strongly suggest she is considered, as her dedication to learning, compassion and advocacy for patients and their families are inspiring and unmatched.

Sincerely,

Ashley Kenny RN, BScN, MHS, ONC(c)
Clinical Nurse Educator