



September 12, 2016

Capital City Speakers Bureau
1620 South 5th Street
Springfield, IL 62703

To Whom It May Concern,

I am delighted to provide this reference for Sandy Summers in support of her application to the Capital City Speakers Bureau. I have known Sandy for three years. Most recently, I invited her to be the keynote speaker at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing's graduation ceremony on July 22, 2016. As Sandy is a John Hopkins alumna, receiving her Master's Degrees in Nursing and Public Health in 2002, I felt it only befitting to welcome her back to speak to and inspire our 2016 graduates. Not only did she inspire the graduates with her keynote address, but she also empowered them to take on the new challenges that lie ahead for the nursing community as a whole.

Prior to her graduate work, Sandy practiced nursing in the emergency departments and intensive care units of some of America's major trauma centers, including San Francisco General Hospital, Charity Hospital at New Orleans, Washington Hospital Center, (D.C) and D.C. General Hospital. I know Sandy to be a dedicated clinician and a fierce advocate for a more positive perception of nursing by the media. Sandy began her media advocacy work in April 2001. Since then, she has educated and captivated audiences through her public speaking.

Sandy is the Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit organization The Truth About Nursing. As I previously stated, since 2001, she has led the effort to change how the world views nursing by challenging damaging media depictions of nurses. Sandy's exceptional skills in nursing, healthcare management, clinical research, health education, patient advocacy, and public speaking have provided her with the ability to impact others, as well as gain cooperation from major corporations to create more positive and accurate images of the nursing profession.

Sandy has received numerous awards for her work: the 2015 American Journal of Nursing (AJN) Book of the Year Award, for "Saving Lives"; the 2009 International Award for Nursing Excellence in Public Print Media from the Sigma Theta, Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing; and a media award from the Connecticut Nurses Association in October 2010.

Indeed, Sandy has consistently demonstrated excellent leadership qualities, and has spent recent years educating the world about the value of nursing.

Office of the Dean



I hereby wholeheartedly endorse Sandy Summers as a candidate for your roster of speakers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "P" and a stylized "D".

Patricia M. Davidson, PhD, MEd, RN, FAAN
Dean & Professor

Office of the Dean