



# المدرسة العالمية الأمريكية The UNIVERSAL AMERICAN SCHOOL

Date: October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To whom it may Concern:

I am pleased to write this reference for Sudha Govindswamy (Sunder) who has informed me that she has signaled her interest to the IBO in being a part of the IB School Services Evaluation Team, with a specific focus on curriculum evaluation. I am more than delighted to endorse Sudha to become a member of this project.

Since joining the Universal American School (UAS) in Dubai I have witnessed an extraordinary professional growth in Sudha, to the point that within my tenure from 2009 until my retirement in 2013 Sudha took on numerous curriculum and ICT leadership tasks with both skill and passion. In my career as international school head that spanned well over 30 years I have seen few individuals progressing with such rapidity and engagement. Sudha has remained in touch and I know that she continues on her chosen path, which is to help shape teaching for conceptual understanding. She has been leading several workshops at UAS and at several international schools as well as at key conferences whilst staying on course for the completion of her doctorate at Bath University. She has been a teacher leader for the UAS concept-based curriculum in grades 7-10 while also introducing PYP teachers to concept-based learning and instruction. She does this with intellectual depth, always looking for new insights while sharing her passion with teachers, administrators, and students alike. In addition, Sudha employs her extensive understanding of ICT in ways that broaden understanding and significantly contribute to student engagement in their learning paths.

Sudha has a strong work ethic, observes timelines in projects as short-term as an orientation workshop for new teachers and as complex as an Emirates national evaluation or a US-based or international accreditation. In all such endeavors she always plays a key role, and contributes with solid preparedness and a concern for timely completions of any project.

While Sudha has not specifically worked in a 'virtual environment' her ICT skills are formidable and I would think she could readily transfer into this aspect of the project. There is no doubt in my mind that she has the curriculum knowledge and the personal qualities required to work within set deadlines and adherence to project specifications or goals.

I recommend Sudha wholeheartedly for this project. If chosen Sudha would be a dedicated and insightful participant, with such work constituting a continuation of what she does best – seeking new and meaningful ways to extend the IB experience and student learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gunther Brandt  
UAS Director, 2009-2013  
ESOL Advisor and Board member, 2013-