

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Ms. Sudha Govindswamy (Sunder) and I currently hold the position of Curriculum and Staff Development Coordinator at the Universal American School (UAS) in Dubai, UAE. In this capacity, I provide continued professional development and support teaching staff in effective concept-based curriculum development. Within this broad domain, I specifically target three areas: concept-based teaching and learning within international curricula particularly in IB programs across the continuum; ICT integration with a clear focus on differentiated instruction in multicultural settings; and fostering distributive leadership practice through teacher empowerment. I have very recently defended my EdD dissertation at the University of Bath, UK, and I have cleared my viva without any changes or recommendation on my thesis. My dissertation focuses on teacher perceptions on school-based curriculum development, particularly in the context of concept-based curriculum and instruction in IB World schools.

I also serve in the role of Curriculum Reviewer for the IB Americas, in a pilot project called "Building a Quality curriculum". In this capacity, I provide curriculum review and feedback on IB planners and Programme of Inquiry for IB/American schools in the United States and other parts of the world. As a certified curriculum consultant from the Lynn Erickson Institute, Whitefish, Montana, USA, I have researched and presented widely at international conference on curriculum studies and teacher professional development: <http://practicalthinkingclassrooms.wikispaces.com/>

As a SMART Certified Trainer and a SMART Exemplary Educator, I currently serve also in the role of technology coordinator in the secondary school and serve in the school-wide IT committee that makes budgetary decisions k-12. I am currently the Program Manager for the launch of the iTunes U Master class at UAS. I have taught in the IB DP program for 7 years and am also an IB Examiner for IB ITGS.

I have worked extensively on leading the preparations for school inspection visits from the Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai, UAE with particular focus on the Quality Indicators for Curriculum and Teaching and Learning. I have also been an active member on various committees for accreditation such as the CIS, MSA and IB. As the chairperson of the school-wide Curriculum committee for the last few years, I have also worked with the Curriculum Committee members on revising the school-wide Curriculum and Assessment Plan, the Strategic Plan (in the Steering Committee) and the ICT integration plan. Before I joined the present organization, I worked in a GEMS school in Dubai for eight years where besides teaching, I served in the capacity of Staff Advisor and Events coordinator for all major events that brought together many schools from both within and outside the Emirates.

Please find below my CV for your perusal.

Sincerely,
Sudha Govindswamy Sunder,

S Govindswamy Sunder

Curriculum Vitae

Specialization:

- Curriculum Development and teacher training: concept-based curriculum, design and practice.
- Curriculum Mapping – curriculum continuum- curriculum, pedagogy and teaching and learning bridging the IB PYP and the IB DP with the middle school conceptually based curriculum. (Atlas Rubicon and Manage Bac)
- ICT integration and Educational Technology- with particular focus on differentiation in multi-cultural settings.
- SMART Boards as a medium of creating interactive and engaging lessons.
- Teacher focused professional development, mentoring and monitoring in all of the above.

Current Responsibilities as the Information and Communication Technology Coordinator

- Conducting workshops for teachers on cross-curricular and ICT integrated pedagogy with particular focus on differentiation strategies in multi-cultural settings.
- iPad initiative and iTunes U Master class- moving the school towards the BYOD model.
- Launching/training teachers for the iTunes U Master class for IB Diploma Program courses.
- Launching and upkeep of the Parent/Teacher/Student Portals –training, providing ongoing support and trouble-shooting on Portal related matters.
- Collaborating, planning and target setting with school wide IT committee for the upkeep and maintenance of the school Portal and Website. (Final Site)
- Conducting ongoing workshops for teachers on integrating SMART boards and iPads in the classroom for effective teaching and learning.
- Conducting classroom observations and mentoring of teachers in concept-based teaching and learning with supportive technology integration.
- Liaising and planning annual IT budget with the Chief Information Officer and school wide IT committee.

As Curriculum Leader for IT

- Developing and revising the Scope and Sequence for Grades 7-10 in collaboration with other teachers in the department.
- Mentoring and providing support to teachers in the department.
- Ensuring vertical and horizontal alignment of the IT curriculum and ensuring this Seamlessly integrates into mainstream teaching.

Committees served/serving:

- Chair of School wide Curriculum Committee (2010-2014).
- Member of school-wide Portal and ICT Committee (2011-2013).
- Co-chair MSA/CIS five year review committee for ICT (2011-2012).
- Chair of KHDA Inspection teams-visit preparation committee (2010 till current).
- Chair of Steering Committee – two years (2008-2010).
- Member of Staff committee- CIS Visit (2007).
- Chair of IT committee (2007-2010).

Paper Presentations at international conferences:

- Teacher Perceptions about concept-based curriculum development and instruction- Tales from the Chalk Face: The 3rd TESOL Arabia Teacher-Led Research Mini Conference. February 2015.
- Tackling content saturation through teaching for conceptual understanding- Michigan State University, the 3rd Dubai International Conference in Higher Education- Dubai, UAE. February 2015.
- Quality Teaching and Learning through teaching for conceptual understanding- Michigan State University: Conference Proceedings International Conference in Higher Education: Sustaining Success Through Innovation- January 2014.
- American curriculum Schools in the United Arab Emirates and the Common Core State Standards- On the Education Panel- Radio 103.4 Dubai Eye. October 2014.
- The role of Crosscutting Concepts in unpacking the Next Generation Science Standards- The Middle East and North Africa Common Core Conference. October 2014.
- The role of evidence-based writing in aligning to the ELA standards- The Middle East and North Africa Common Core Conference. October 2014.
- Cultural Values and Student Expressions in an inquiry-based IB classroom- The Alliance for International Education conference- October 2014.
- Global Education Forum- Dubai World Trade Center - Training Approaches for effective use of technology in the classroom-March 5-7, 2013.
- Alliance for International Education Conference - Teachers' Managed Heart in International School Settings. October - 2012. (This paper features in the International Schools Journal, November issue, 2013)
- Workshop at GITEX- Assessment to Inform Planning with SMART Response - October 2012.
- SMART Exemplary Educator Summit, Hamburg, Germany. – Sharing of best practices- July 2012.
- ICT integration and teacher perspectives- Gitex, Dubai October 2011.
- Tackling Information Obesity in the 21st century classrooms- Global Education Summit; Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai March, 2012.
- Conceptual Curriculum workshops at international schools and conferences – 2012-2014.

- MENA Common Core Conference: Title: The Learner in focus - the starting point when aligning Common Core with ELA. (November 1-2, 2013, Dubai, UAE)
- Facilitator in Lynn Erickson's workshop: Concept-based Curriculum and Instruction for the Thinking Classroom- (January 24, 25 - 2014, Dubai).
- Emirates International School, Dubai. Full day workshop – 65 PYP teachers: (February 4th 2014).
- ESOL Conference- Dubai, UAE (October 4-6, 2013)
- Workshop 1: Leading concept based curriculum- challenges and strategies.
- Workshop 2: Effective Scaffolding of Generalizations and developing Guiding Questions in the inquiry based PYP classroom.
- Beykent Schools, Istanbul, Turkey [for the 12th Turkish National Day IB conference] April 13th, 2013. A. Presentation: Clarifying Conceptual-Misconceptions. B. Presentation: Teaching for Conceptual Understanding in the PYP. C. Presentation: The MYP Trans-disciplinary Classroom and The Power of a Conceptual Lens.
- Zayed University [For: KHDA partnership - What works in Literacy]. Title: "How we use compelling questions to drive inquiry-based learning in the English and Arabic language classrooms at middle and high school stages"-February 12th, 2013
- Universal American School Dubai: Leadership Roles for the Concept-based Curriculum.
- GEMS World Academy: Title: The power of a Conceptual Lens in PYP interdisciplinary teaching. November 4th, 2012. [Full day workshop for 80 PYP staff]
- Universal American School, Dubai: Title: Teaching for Conceptual Understanding- what does this mean?
- Universal American School, Dubai: Title: Clarifying Misconceptions. August 28th, 2012.

Education

- 2015- Doctorate in Education (EdD) –University of Bath, UK.
- 2012- Certified Independent Consultant for Concept-Based Curriculum and Instruction- Lynn Erickson institute, Whitefish, Montana, USA.
- 2009 – Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, University of Sunderland, UK.
- 2007 – Certificate in Graphic Design – United Arab Emirates.
- 1994 – Certified Professional Business Programmer – Apple Education, Dept. of Electronics, India.
- 1992 – Master's Degree in Commerce (M.COM) – Kerala University, India
- 1991 – International Diploma in Computer Programming and Applications, UK
- 1990 – Bachelor's Degree in Commerce (B. Com)- Mahatma Gandhi University, India.
- 1988 – Diploma in Data Processing, Indian Institute of Technology, India.

1998 to 2006: Computer Studies Teacher and Events coordinator –GEMS Dubai.

- Events Coordinator for all major inter-school activities
- Staff Advisor for Student council: and in-charge for Prefect Body.
- Member of Steering Committee for school development.
- Moderator - for four consecutive years in the Inter school Debates conducted at the o Indian Consulate, wherein over 15 schools all over UAE participated.
- Coordinated, directed, scripted Cultural show for Annual Day, for four consecutive years.
- Counseling and motivating teenagers towards goal focused and consistent performance
- Volunteered in special needs school for teaching and organized shows for children with special needs.
- UN Simulation assemblies: initiated and pioneered by self, which is still a major event in previous school.
- Involved in Website Development for the school.
- Preparing and dispatching Press release and coordination with media for events.

For more information on my workshop, international conferences and consultancies, please visit:

Concept-based workshops and consultancies:

<http://practicalthinkingclassrooms.wikispaces.com/My+workshops>

Common Core Workshops:

<http://practicalthinkingclassrooms.wikispaces.com/Common+Core+Workshops+and+Presentations>

Published Papers and presentations:

<http://practicalthinkingclassrooms.wikispaces.com/Presentations>

LinkedIn : ae.linkedin.com/pub/sudha-govindswamysunder/40/736/40a/

About myself:

Nationality: Indian.

Visa Status: On employer sponsorship.

Hobbies: Reading, Caricature, Traveling.

Date of Birth: 30-12-1969.

E-mail contact : winterof69ss@gmail.com

13 January 2015

To whom it may Concern:

I am pleased to write this reference for Sudha Govindswamy (Sunder), Curriculum and Staff Development Coordinator at UAS (secondary 7-12), who has been an exceptionally devoted and capable member of the faculty of the Universal American School (UAS) in Dubai, a tenure that has spanned eight years and is coming to a close in June, 2015. Sudha has decided to embark on a new chapter in her professional life, initially entailing the finishing work on her PH.D. with Bath University (UK) but with full readiness to commence a new career in which she will maintain her close links with the international education community.

Sudha's tenure at UAS has been one of extraordinary professional growth, 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 taught with great success several ICT courses across all upper level grades and the IB course Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS). She is a teacher of great talent, depth, and meticulous preparation. Students and colleagues alike admire Sudha for her engaged teaching and the manner and style she brings even to the most difficult tasks. Importantly, beyond teaching Sudha has taken on significant additional responsibilities which, over the course of several years, have developed into leadership tasks beyond technology into all aspects of curriculum and its implementation in teaching and learning. Along with this Sudha has willingly, and with great skill and devotion to the good of the school, has played leading roles in accreditations for MSA, CIS, and IB while also reaching out to align the US Common Core with the conceptual curriculum in grades 7-10 and indeed across the full K-12 curriculum. The annual inspection of the Dubai Education authorities, the KHDA, could not have had the success it did over the years without Sudha's engaged leadership. Finally, Sudha has played a major role in supporting the professional development of colleagues in the integration of technology into teaching and learning and in shaping teaching for conceptual understanding. Sudha brought all of her knowledge and understanding in ICT and curriculum into her roles as Chair of the school-wide Curriculum Committee and her membership in the Steering Committee.

Sudha stands out in her work ethic, her devotion to teamwork, and her breadth of knowledge. In all that she does Sudha is invariably well prepared, whether this entails meetings, workshops, parent conferences, or the support of major events. She will seek advice where this is appropriate and share her skills and insights in ways that is valued by colleagues and students alike. She takes on even the most challenging tasks with both resolve and good humor, attributes which she brings to all aspects of school life.

The qualifications which Sudha has obtained, including the nearly completed doctorate, all recommend her well for a new career which will likely involve a broadening of her work in workshop presentations, conferences, and institutes. Most recently Sudha has been asked to contribute to IB curriculum review by the IB Americas Global Center in Bethesda while her EdD. dissertation will provide greater understanding of teacher perceptions of the concept-based curriculum and how to engage in best practices. I know from my talks with Sudha that her work is a systematic. Research-based investigation into the complexities of teaching for conceptual understanding. Returning to the use of technology, at UAS Sudha has started the I-Tunes U Master Class Project, again evidence of her commitment to providing students with digital thinking capacities. Additionally, as regards qualifications, Sudha is certified by the Erickson Institute in the conceptual curriculum, she is an IB Examiner in the ITGS, and she single-handedly made UAS a SMART certified school while becoming an "Exemplary Smart Educator" herself. She holds a Teaching degree from the University of Sunderland (UK), an international diploma in computer programming, and – if this would not suffice – all the practical understandings that surely an M.A. in Business Studies and Accountancy will bring to the table.

Sudha is well positioned to cast her net of activities more broadly, having given numerous workshops at UAS, in several schools in the Emirates, and at conferences and institutes covering curriculum and ICT. The core of her commitment is to be a change agent, helping to transform traditional practice into "thinking classrooms". In fact, I would go further and say that Sudha's work is dedicated to finding meaningful ways to enhance the quality of student learning. I am confident that in this modern challenge Sudha can play a leading role, in schools as well as in the wider circles of the professional development community.

Sincerely and with all good wishes,



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



المدرسة العالمية الأمريكية The UNIVERSAL AMERICAN SCHOOL

March 23, 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: Reference for Sudha Sunder, Director of Curriculum / Professional Learning (K-12)

One of the more delightful experiences during my short tenure at the Universal American School has been working with Sudha Sunder. I arrived at UAS in August 2013 to serve as the Interim Director during the school's search for a permanent Director. Sudha already had a featured presence during several days of teacher orientation. Her gifted talent for doing stellar, information-filled presentations immediately attracted my attention.

It is now several months later. We are well into our school year and I continue to be impressed with Sudha, not only her presentations, but also her natural leadership acumen. She chairs the school-wide Curriculum Committee and I sit in as a member. Sudha not only facilitates an organized and focused meeting, she patiently allows all those at the table to contribute to the discussion. In the end, it is her meeting summaries that impress me and her remarkable follow up and attention to detail.

I am trying to reflect on several of the attributes that really give Sudha her deserved distinction. First and foremost, she is very intelligent and able to absorb and organize vast amounts of information and data like no one I have ever met. She has exceptional technological skills that helps with that data sorting. She is very comfortable and confident before both large and small groups, which has a lot to do with her demand and success as a workshop presenter. And, of course, Sudha is very focused in her thinking. Her ideas have a logical sequence that give audiences a clear understanding of content.

There is one other venue where Sudha has shown great leadership and that is helping the school get ready for annual KHDA (Knowledge & Human Development Authority) inspection. This event requires tremendous organization and preparation. KHDA's request for data, supporting student learning attainment and school demographics, is insatiable. Sudha is the one person who understands what needs to be done and when it has to be done. We all look to her for advice and counsel during this tense period of time.

All of us, at the Universal American School, are hopeful that Sudha will stay with the school for many years to come, but that is not realistic. She'll soon move on to other challenges. Any school or organization will be fortunate to employ her. She has so much offer a school, especially in curriculum and instruction / instructional technology.

You don't want to miss on the opportunity to interview Sudha Sunder.

Sincerely,

Daryle D. Russell

Daryle D Russell
Director, Universal American School



Lynn Erickson, Ed.D.
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To: International Baccalaureate Selection Committee

Re: Reference for Sudha Sunder

Application to become an IB School Evaluator for
Curriculum and Instruction

As an author, presenter and trainer on concept-based curriculum and instruction I have enjoyed working with IB teachers for at least five years helping them understand the conceptual level of teaching and learning so they could meet the high expectations of the IB Programmes. I was also a consultant for the MYP Next Chapter. I met Sudha Sunder in 2011 at the IB Conference in the Hague. She then attended my week long institute in Montana, USA in the summer of 2012 and became a certified trainer/presenter in concept-based curriculum and instruction. Since that time she has worked with her own school and many other schools as a consultant at both the PYP and MYP levels to help them design their IB curricula. Sudha's expertise in concept-based teaching and learning has given her a special depth of knowledge to assist schools with the conceptual focus to the IB Inquiry driven programmes.

Besides Sudha's strong grasp of both the IB programmes and the conceptual components, she brings some additional strengths. Sudha is one of the strongest presenters I have had the pleasure of watching. She is highly articulate and speaks with the confidence of a presenter fully in command of her material and message. She instills confidence and can field any questions from teachers regarding the IB curriculum or instruction expectations. Her ability to evaluate curriculum and Instruction aligned to the IB expectations, along with her ability to write and speak so eloquently, make her an outstanding candidate for the IB school evaluation team. She will ensure that the conceptual component of the curriculum and instruction programmes in schools are meeting the high standards required by the IB and can evaluate the integrity and fidelity of the curriculum development process to the IB guidelines. Sudha is a professional and will meet all deadlines in a timely manner. I highly recommend her for this evaluator role.

Sincerely,

H. Lynn Erickson
Concept-based Author, Presenter and Trainer