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To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer this letter of recommendation for Dr. Cynthia Cudaback as she applies for positions that could make use of her knowledge of the marine environment and her talent and enthusiasm for education.

I have known Dr. Cudaback only for a couple of years, having sought to meet her after I read her EOS article about her college students' ocean literacy. As a marine education researcher myself, I was pleased with her emergence into our field through a science periodical that reaches so many professionals. As a marine scientist, she was seeing the importance of analyzing where her university course could make a difference, not just in test scores but in student awareness of personal responsibility for the natural environment. She saw the big picture of science learning.

She has since demonstrated other skills desirable in one who is eager to share her marine knowledge. Not being trained in pedagogy, she is seeking opportunities to enhance her understanding of how people learn, how marine educators build networks, and what goes into good teaching that fosters real learning. She reached out to the National Marine Educators Association to meet researchers as well as educators and agency leaders who work with ocean science and the public at different levels. Sharing her work through presentations and publications in marine education shows her commitment to work in this professional arena. As an independent education consultant, she does school programs about the sea, mostly for elementary grades, and she regularly seeks the advice of others as she develops innovative plans for these groups.

Dr. Cudaback is also building a background in coursework toward the implementation of a career in marine environmental education. She was a student in my 2009 course, Fundamentals of Environmental Education, for instance. We could depend on her for thoughtful use of resources and creative approaches to assignments, and more than one of the teachers taking the course commented on her excitement and her ability to make them think beyond the words.

I am collaborating with Dr. Cudaback now on assessment of marine knowledge and attitudes in another course, and I value her science talents as well as her practical perspective on the relative importance of different topics. I consider her an excellent colleague, and I hope she will have an opportunity to share her many talents with you in a professional position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosanne W. Fortner".

Rosanne W. Fortner
Director, COSEE Great Lakes