

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in recognition of Alicia Archibald's contributions to my MESA program this year. MESA is a nonprofit organization. The *Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement* (MESA) program is designed to encourage minority and female students to prepare themselves for a college education and to major in math, engineering or science.

I work at Sand Creek Elementary school in South Colorado Springs, Colorado. I am the MESA representative for the school. This year the focus of my program was technology and its environmental impact. Alicia and I decided to teach the 22 fourth and fifth grade students in the class, first, how to take apart, then rebuild a computer. I received around 5 complete computer systems from a parent. Alicia took the cpu's and made sure they were all working. She also used parts from her BETTR recycling center to make 5 complete systems.

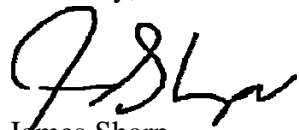
Alicia and I spent the first weeks teaching the kids about how computers work and the internal parts. After the kids understood the basics, we began having the kids take apart the computers and rebuild them. Alicia's expertise in this area was incredible. After the first semester, we taught the kids the parts of the computer that had environmentally unfriendly substances. The kids did research and learned about the environmental impact of these substances. Alicia had large quantities of information that she shared with my students.

I took the kids on a field trip to the BETTR electronics recycling center. Alicia showed the inner workings of the computer and electronic parts and how they prepare them for recycling. Alicia had a hands-on project for the kids to help take apart computer parts and separate them to their proper bins. The kids absolutely loved that part of the class.

Alicia had a great repoire with my students and taught them a lot about the inner workings of computers and most importantly how they impact the environment when they are tossed into landfills. At the final presentation one of our students made a PowerPoint presentation where they explained that computers are harmful to the environment. A visitor was reading the PowerPoint, then turned to me and said in a very disapproving way, that he didn't think technology would impact the environment. I immediately passed the question onto one of our MESA students. He went onto explain the different substances that were not good for the environment and that they were in computers. The visitor seemed impressed by the answer. After this event I understood what a great impact Alicia had on my students.

Alicia's assistance this year in MESA was invaluable. She brought her knowledge of computers and her ability to teach to help this bunch of students learn and have fun this year. Her efforts will enable these students with a basic knowledge of how computers work and also a deep understanding of how important it is to recycle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Sharp', written in a cursive style.

James Sharp  
Sand Creek Elementary