

To Whom It May Concern,

I had the pleasure of working closely with Melissa Beynon at The W. Galen Weston Centre For Food Durham College, where she was a work study student and I am the Field Supervisor. From May 2018 to April 2019 Melissa was employed full and part-time on our field crew doing a variety of jobs as part of our working farm and horticulture programs. Melissa is one of the strongest, motivated, committed and hard-working people I have worked with in my time at the Centre For Food. The more I got know Melissa, the more I appreciated her consistent work ethic, professional attitude, commitment to perfection and her charming personality that always made working with her a pleasure.

As a work study student on our field crew Melissa played a key role in the everyday working operations of our on-campus farm, arboretum and greenhouse labs. While in this role Melissa did everything from farm planning, field preparation, greenhouse management, garden design and maintenance, crop management, harvesting, post harvest and storage and a number of horticulture related tasks. During her time in this role, I watched Melissa develop her already impressive horticulture knowledge and skills and apply them in new and creative ways. I also relied on her to take the lead on community tours, workshops and guest relations where she proved to be an excellent ambassador for the Centre.

She was able to graduate from a summer field crew role into a fall and winter greenhouse production role that was only for a select group of students. It was in this role that she truly excelled. She consistently held her work to the highest regard and consistently achieved positive outcomes. I relied on her heavily to be a leader, maintain order in the greenhouse and lead by example. She never disappointed. Melissa always took on responsibility without being asked, she knew what to do without ever being told, she got the job done with little supervision or direction. I came to rely on her often to manage the greenhouse and take on responsibilities above and beyond her duties, all while balancing a high standard of work and studies and academic achievement.

What impresses me most about Melissa is her no holds barred approach and get the job done personality. She always takes on the tasks that nobody wants to do, and does them with pleasure and positivity. She isn't afraid to speak her mind and is always honest, straightforward and realistic. She is a natural leader, go-getter and high achiever. She knows what to do and just gets it done. She takes direction well and when given tasks or responsibilities she takes them on with a strong sense of conviction to execute to the highest standard. She made me a better leader and manager and inspired me to be better everyday.

I can't say enough good things about Melissa. She is well suited for the Horticulture Industry and I would easily recommend her for any kind of coordinator, manager or leadership role.

Sincerely,

Ryan Cullen
Field Supervisor
W. Galen Weston Centre For Food.
Durham College