

Somewhere:



Letter of Recommendation for Teale Failla

Teale was my mentee as the first recipient of the Somewhere LGBT+ MBA scholarship at The University of Edinburgh Business School. I developed this scholarship through Somewhere EDI, a Community Interest Company I founded in 2018. It is the first of its kind in Scotland and the second in the UK after The University of Cambridge. Teale was chosen out of a pool of very talented applicants accepted to the University of Edinburgh MBA programme because of her illustrated dedication to increasing visibility of the LGBT+ community through her work in media. The scholarship included my mentorship in addition to the monetary award. We met at on average twice a month to develop goals and strategies to achieve them. I thoroughly enjoyed mentoring Teale and found her to be emotionally intelligent, unafraid to show vulnerability as she worked through a very rigorous, accelerated programme. As the first recipient of this scholarship, she helped me work out the design of the mentorship as well.

Teale graduated at the top of her class, winning the Business School Award for Academic Excellence which further helped showcase the importance of LGBT+ visibility in business education. She has always been eager to be an ambassador for the scholarship and the Business School and has acted as an added mentor to this year's scholarship holder.

I went on to hire Teale as project manager for a new initiative from Somewhere: The Rainbow Enterprise Network. Soft launched in November 2020, REN aims to connect LGBT+ business owners, entrepreneurs and ally businesses to find support, solidarity and visibility in starting and sustaining their businesses. Teale is working with me to flesh out strategies, develop targets and assign duties based on the strengths and capabilities of our staff. She has written an impressive business plan to help me see where we are, where we want to go and how to get there.

It has been a pleasure working with Teale, and I highly recommend her to any future academic study or employment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about her suitability for the position.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Pierce'.

Kathryn Pierce
Founder & Co-Director

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