

April 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Sam Long to recommend that he be considered for employment in your school district. I taught Sam in the Middle Childhood Social Studies Methods course during the Autumn quarter of 2011 and the Middle School Organization and Practices course in the Winter quarter of 2012.

Sam immediately struck me as an enthusiastic student eager to learn and work collaboratively with his peers. Through consistent class participation in the form of questions, contributions to discussion, written reflections, and conferences with me outside of class, Sam demonstrated a drive to successfully develop and deliver effective social studies lessons. He skillfully used theory and content gained from course readings and assignments to inform his lesson and unit planning. Through course assignments, he demonstrated an ability to plan and deliver social studies content in engaging ways for students while connecting all instruction to the Ohio Social Studies Content Standards.

In addition to informing his instruction with the Ohio Social Studies Content Standards, Sam demonstrated strong understandings of middle childhood learners in his planning, choosing age appropriate instructional methods that aim to meaningfully and actively engage students in learning. He consistently made connections between the concepts and theories regarding instruction and planning to his student teaching experience. Sam designed a social studies unit well suited for his middle school students, incorporating guidance from his mentor teacher, concepts from the course, and the Ohio Social Studies Content Standards.

Sam reflects strong professionalism in the classroom as well. Throughout the quarter, he took on leadership roles when working in class with peers on projects and assignments. His participation in class discussions was consistent and often offered valuable perspectives that respectfully challenged others' ideas on social studies teaching and learning.

Whether Sam pursues a position in social studies or other content area, I have no reservations about recommending him for a teaching position. His willingness to learn from others, reflect on and share his own experience and knowledge, professionalism, and ability to effectively teach middle childhood students will be assets for any school community.

Respectfully submitted,



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