

January 18, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is without hesitation that I write a recommendation letter for Ryan Arciero. As the instructor for his Methods of Teaching Reading in the Content Areas course, his Pedagogy and Assessment for Effective 6-12 Instruction class, and his Communication for Teachers course, I observed his dedication to consistent performance as well as his ability to work with a variety of people. Ryan sincerely believes that a teacher is a life-long learner, and he exemplified this conviction in numerous ways through his work in our pre-service education classes.

To begin, Ryan's determination to succeed set him apart from many of the other students whom I have taught. For example, while the class grappled with ways to connect literacy methodology with current classroom practice, Ryan saw an opportunity to challenge himself. He wanted to grow in his knowledge of teaching strategies by understanding the way in which critical literacy might be incorporated in his curricula. He sought additional assistance when needed, emailed me to check for understanding, and raised questions in class in regard to concepts for which he desired clarity. Acknowledging the importance of effective written and verbal communication, Ryan aimed to improve his understanding of the complexities of teaching students. Clearly, Ryan's dedication to improving his own knowledge would serve as a model in helping others to succeed.

In conjunction with his efforts to reach the goals that he has set for himself are the strengths that Ryan brought to our classroom community. Whenever I asked the students in class to work in small groups, I knew that Ryan would assume a leadership role. When the groups were self-selected, he frequently met with students who he knew wanted to discuss such issues as time management, classroom procedures, and educational philosophies. In other words, he opted to confer with others who took the work as seriously as he does. At the same time, when I formed the groups where the students would work with others with whom they were not familiar, Ryan kept an open mind to others' ideas, asked questions to constructively challenge their thinking, and sincerely complimented others for the important contributions they had made to group goals. His ability to learn from his peers as well as to provide valuable contributions himself compels me to believe that Ryan would be an excellent addition to any learning community.

In conclusion, his drive to succeed and his desire to work with others are among the many reasons that I believe Ryan Arciero would be a welcome addition to any school community. Although he performed exceptionally well in my class, what he demonstrated to me was far more important: Ryan has a sincere desire to challenge his thinking, learn from his experiences, and grow as a professional.

Sincerely,

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