

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

February 21, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to recommend Andrea Noffsinger for a teaching position with your district or school. I am currently Andrea's course instructor for *TE801/803 Professional Roles and Teaching Practice*. Student teaching interns at Michigan State University (MSU) enroll in the course, and a two-semester course in subject matter methods, concurrent with a nine-month internship in a middle or high school. I also work with Andrea in my role as the Faculty Leader for the MSU/Chicago Public Schools Internship. Andrea is one of forty MSU students currently completing their internships in a Chicago Public School. Andrea is a very thoughtful beginning teacher who is deeply committed to her students' learning. With her strong knowledge of curriculum development and instructional design, I am certain that she will be a real asset to your school and to the students she will serve.

Throughout this year, I have been consistently impressed by Andrea's commitment to building her teaching practice so that she can better foster her students' learning. The course I teach, *TE801/803*, focuses on issues of classroom management and working with diverse students and families. One of the major assignments requires the interns to study in-depth how they can expand their instructional repertoires to increase student engagement and learning. Andrea chose to develop her knowledge of and skills in teaching reading in the content area of social studies. The Chicago high school where Andrea interns serves students who live in high poverty communities. The school has instituted reading across the curriculum in order to build students' literacy skills and better prepare them for college. As a beginning social studies teacher, Andrea had only a limited knowledge of how to teach reading. She used the project in my course to research various approaches to the teaching of reading and to design lessons in which students developed key reading skills while they read and discussed current events and social issues in small group and whole class formats. Andrea collected information on student engagement and learning as she taught the sequence. Though she had hoped that students would reach a higher level more quickly, she found that students did begin to develop their comprehension skills and strategies. Andrea was also able to document her own learning and to identify how she could have better structured reading activities to develop students' skills while maintaining their engagement during both group work and teacher-led instruction.

I have also been impressed by Andrea's ability to work productively with her peers and supervisors. Andrea consistently approaches her learning with a very positive attitude. She recognizes areas in her teaching that she needs to strengthen and then seeks resources and support from peers, colleagues, and supervisors to help her do that. Andrea is also a very supportive colleague for her peers. She is always willing to share her challenges and successes with her peers, her field supervisor, and her instructors. She is open to critique and uses feedback to improve her practice and expand her learning. Our internship is very demanding as interns enroll in two university courses as



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they engage in student teaching. Andrea is able to navigate successfully the often competing demands from the university and her school while maintaining her focus on her own students' learning. I am very impressed by the positive attitude and resiliency that Andrea brings to her work.

In sum, I highly recommend Andrea Noffsinger for your program. Andrea is a top-rate beginning teacher who is dedicated to her students' academic learning. She is a supportive colleague who is able to work effectively with a range of people. She brings strong teaching skills and subject matter knowledge and a positive attitude that will make her a highly regarded teacher and a trusted colleague.

If you would like to speak with me further about Andrea's qualifications, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address or phone number below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorothea Anagnostopoulos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'D'.

Dorothea Anagnostopoulos
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