

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

NEW ENGLAND

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4/28/14

RE: Recommendation of Andrew Herrick for High School Life Sciences Teacher

To Whom It May Concern,

I would grab Andrew Herrick as soon as he walks into any school that is seeking a Life Sciences teacher. You'll get so much from this guy. Andrew is a good person, through and through. He has high expectations of his students yet is flexible, he's innovative yet practical, he enjoys sharing his knowledge yet listens deeply to his students. I appreciate his reflective, playful, relaxed energy. And in addition to getting a teacher trained in using engaging problem solving and inquiry-based approaches to science teaching, you get an expert agriculturalist, and soccer coach, extraordinaire.

Over the past 1 1/2 years, I have been Andrew's advisor and instructor in three courses: *Problem Solving and Inquiry-Based Approaches to Science Teaching*, *Curriculum Design*, and *Student Teaching Seminar*. I trust Andrew so much as a person and his potential as a science teacher, I set him up to work with my mentor from 30 years ago when I student taught. Please know that while I adore all of my science teacher certification students, I hand-pick only a few to work with my mentor who I consider to be one of the most gifted science teachers I've met in my career.

Andrew has a solid training in designing engaging, hands-on, minds-on, student-centered, problem-based, rigorous, and playful science curriculum. Both his engaging curriculum and his classroom management approaches rooted in empathy and respect create a classroom environment in which kids with a wide-range of learning ability and learning styles want to learn.

Step into Andrew's classroom and you'll see students conducting themselves like scientists: actively solving problems, analyzing data, debating the interpretation of their results. For example, when learning about the

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interconnectedness of natural systems, you will see students designing and operating their school's garden based on ecological and natural principles. They later present their soil and agricultural accomplishments in front of their community in the form of a student-grown and prepared local gourmet meal.

As a means to demonstrate their understanding of genetics and heredity, you will see students assume the role of Gregor Mendel while planting and observing different types of corn to determine their parental genotype.

To learn about social responsibility, you will see students creating ecologically oriented art installations around their school and hear them discussing how and why they must reduce their own consumption and waste.

Check out Andrew's online portfolio to get a great sense of how much Andrew can offer your school. And since he's always looking for opportunities to learn from his colleagues and to collaborate, he's a joy to work with.

Any school would be lucky to have Andrew as part of their team. I would grab him before someone else does.

Respectfully,



Jimmy Karlan, Ed.D.
Director, Science Teacher Certification
Department of Environmental Studies
jkarlan@antiochne.edu
802-579-8712 (c)