



School of Education

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of working with Kirstin Barnard as the coordinator of the Multiple Subject Credential Program at UC Irvine. Kirstin is a student in my year-long seminar course where she is required to submit lesson plans, discuss classroom management and student teaching responsibilities. As the coordinator of the program, I also monitor student teacher progress at their placement and communicate with mentor teachers. Ms. Barnard's mentor teacher and supervisor gave her high praise so I felt compelled to observe for myself.

I observed Ms. Barnard in her student teaching classroom as she taught a social studies lesson to her 5th grade class. During this lesson Ms. Barnard wanted her students to understand how different government policies impacted westward migration. She connected to students' prior knowledge by asking them about rules they had to follow when receiving a new toy. Students shared their experience about when, where and how often they were allowed to play with their new toy. Ms. Barnard adeptly helped her students make connections to the policies that impacted her students personally, to viewing policy on a national scale and how it impacted how early settlers made decisions to move across the United States. Ms. Barnard was able to bring events in history to a personal level that her students understood. Students were able to think-pair-share and discuss their opinions in groups while citing evidence from their text to support their opinion.

The credential program at UCI is a rigorous 9-month program yet Kirstin has volunteered to serve as one of the Student Representatives. As one of the representatives, she demonstrated her organizational and collaborative skills by designing the cohort bulletin board and organizing activities to energize the cohort.

Based on my interactions with Kirstin Barnard in the UCI classroom, my observation of her in the elementary classroom, and her extracurricular role as a student representative, I can confidently recommend Ms. Barnard for a classroom teaching position. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan J. Berge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "B".

Susan Toma-Berge, Ed. D.
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