



School of Education

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March 11, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing this letter on behalf of Kirstin Barnard. I have had the opportunity to observe and interact with Kirstin in my capacity as a Lecturer and Student Teacher Advisor at University of California, Irvine.

Kirstin creates and maintains an effective environment for her fifth grade students. She develops and maintains clear expectations while at the same time building positive relationships with her students. Kirstin provides clear direction for students, carefully monitors students' efforts and uses multiple management strategies to reinforce attentive behavior.

Kirstin plans instruction and designs learning experiences to meet a variety of student needs in her fifth grade classroom. She understands the state standards and makes the content of the standards accessible to her students using a variety of effective strategies, including pair shares and thinking map graphic organizers. Her lessons are well planned and prepared and content is presented in a logical manner. Kirstin takes time to get to know her students and build rapport with them. She uses her knowledge to plan meaningful learning experiences and support students in making connections. In one recent lesson, Kirstin supported students in making connections between the American Revolution, their lives, and those of their ancestors. Student thinking was made visible and she successfully engaged students in asking questions and considering multiple perspectives of life in the times of the revolution. She is able to help students make connections between old and new learning and is aware of her student's understanding.

Kirstin will be an asset to any school. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jody Guarino", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jody Guarino, Ed.D.

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