

March 24, 2015
Re: Caitlin Genord

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in strong support of Ms. Caitlin Genord's application to teach in your school. I've had several opportunities to work with Caitlin and I've found her to be an inquisitive young woman and passionate student. During the course of her undergraduate teacher preparation program, I worked with Caitlin in **ED 420: Adolescent Literature and Strategies for Teaching** and in **ED 433: Secondary English Methods**. These courses afforded me the opportunity to see Ms. Genord develop her educational philosophy both in theory and in practice through her extensive teaching practicum experiences.

One of Caitlin's greatest strengths is her willingness to be surprised and patient in her learning while remaining committed to her core beliefs about the powerful capabilities of young people. I've seen more than a few novice teachers become frustrated and insecure quite quickly when faced with situations that challenge their beliefs. Caitlin is not one who becomes frustrated. Rather, she becomes even more committed to learning about her teaching craft. She is willing to live with questions and uncertainty, to seek out more information on her own, and to connect the content and concepts across her classes in order to develop her own answers. Caitlin's minor in Information Literacy has made her exceptionally skillful in this regard. I've seen this first hand in Caitlin's course and fieldwork projects and the evidence within her professional e-portfolio. Through reading Caitlin's reflections and project work, I was able to see her thinking deepen over the semesters, but more impressively, I was able to see how she implemented her new understandings in her teaching placement. She is a very self-directed learner who knows how to play to her strengths, but she also seeks opportunities that allow her to work on areas in which she has new curiosities. For these reasons, I would highly recommend her for a position in your English department.

If I can provide you with any further information regarding Caitlin's credentials or qualifications, please don't hesitate to contact me. Again, I believe Ms. Genord is a wonderful candidate for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Shelly Furuness
Dr. Shelly Furuness
Butler University College of Education
sfurunes@butler.edu or 940-6967