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Recommendation for Abigail Allen

Dear Reader:

I am writing to recommend Abigail Allen for a position in your school. I believe Abby would make an outstanding addition to your faculty. She is reflective and tempered in her planning and teaching. Her quiet confidence is effective and students respond positively to her teaching style. Abby carefully considers the interests and skills of her students to plan engaging and meaningful art opportunities; allowing them to generate ideas and explore concepts with a variety of materials, techniques and art processes.

Abby’s e-portfolio highlights the art experiences introduced to students at the elementary and secondary levels. All of her lessons are standards-based, incorporate conceptual development (higher order and critical thinking), experimentation with materials and process-based techniques (mathematics), history and culture, and reflective analysis (literacy). Abby carefully planned her lesson to differentiate student learning. She varied access to information, amended processes when needed, and provided options for choice in creating art work. Examples of student work in progress, idea development and student learning and growth are clearly demonstrated in her portfolio which can be viewed at: [www.abigailallenportfolio.weebly.com](http://www.abigailallenportfolio.weebly.com).

Abby completed her coursework at Colorado State University in the spring of 2014 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education. Her art education coursework included studies in standards-based art curriculum development; integration of literacy and numeracy into the art curriculum; assessment; studio practice, art history and criticism; classroom management; art room design, budgeting and ordering supplies; integration of classroom technology; and accommodations/differentiation in art. The program is “practice-intensive” with most of the coursework completed in the field. I can honestly say that Abby completed her studies with attention to detail and determination. She exhibited initiative and responsibility in completing her coursework and student teaching assignments. Abby is a very energetic and motivated learner and wants to become an exceptional teacher of art.

In addition to completing her coursework in art education, Abby completed studio work in drawing, painting, sculpture, fibers, photography, and pottery. She also completed *ART326-Art Education Studio* to address areas in printmaking, metals/jewelry, design, technology and other studio components not addressed in her primary studio classes.

I also had the responsibility of supervising Abby at both her elementary and secondary placements: at Edmondson and Centennial Elementary Schools in Loveland and Poudre High School in Fort Collins—all in Colorado. In reflecting on Abby’s teaching in both placements what immediately comes to mind are her strong organizational skills and her caring demeanor. Her lesson plans were completed and handed in during each of my observations of her teaching and she was always well prepared to teach. In addition to teaching, Abby attended faculty meetings, met with counselors and parents, and was involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities at each school. Both of her cooperating teachers spoke very highly of her performance in all areas.

Abby is excited to teach art and would do a great job at any level. She has a wide range of teaching and assisting experience in the art classroom for a novice. Her experience includes working with at-risk and exceptional students.

I can honestly recommend Abigail Allen without reservation. I believe she will grow to be a master teacher in art. Please consider her for a position in your school, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like further clarification about Abby’s experiences.

Sincerely,

**Patrick G. Fahey**

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