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LA CROSSE

Dr. Jeanette Haynes Writer
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To Dr. Haynes Writer:

It is an honor and privilege to recommend Maggie McHugh for the doctoral program at New Mexico State University. It is my strong belief that Maggie's ability to conduct creative and high quality qualitative research projects will be an asset to any graduate program. Maggie is a tenacious learner and is committed to issues surrounding social justice. She has experience and skills working collaboratively and dialogically with colleagues and the larger diverse community. I believe this goes hand in hand with the mission and vision of the graduate program at New Mexico State University.

I have known Maggie in multiple capacities. I had the pleasure of working with her as her thesis chair and as her professor in a graduate classroom. While working with Maggie in these areas, I was impressed with her ability and eagerness to explore and grasp complex theoretical understandings. Not only that, but she demonstrated an excellent capacity to *apply* these critical theoretical frameworks in pre-service teacher education programs.

Maggie's research illustrates her commitment to work with critical perspectives regarding mathematics and highlights the importance of creating pedagogical strategies that challenge traditional practices. I feel that Maggie is well prepared to conduct doctoral level research, and I believe she will continue to explore and grow from some of the theories and practices she has developed while writing her thesis. Maggie takes seriously what hooks (2004) describes as having a "radical openness." She has a great ability to become transformed by new knowledge and information—seeing herself as unfinished and what Freire (1970) describes as "always becoming." Overall, I believe Maggie will not only be an asset to New Mexico State University's graduate program, but I see her contributing extensively to the larger literature surrounding critical pedagogy and mathematics.

As an educator, Maggie is reflective and has an incredible tenacity to build participatory and critical inquiry in the classroom. Although she has the courage of her convictions, she is open to alternative points of view and committed to learn from them. She is collaborative with other faculty members in developing new pedagogical strategies, and she is able to challenge and engage students to discuss difficult topics surrounding race, class, gender, LGBT and disabilities. Maggie's teaching practices demonstrate that she is articulate and thoughtful but most importantly she is extremely diligent in her work which helps prepare students to act in critical ways, not only in the capacity of the classroom but in transforming the larger society.

It is without reservation that I highly recommend Maggie for the doctoral program because of her experience and depth of knowledge she will bring to the program. As an alumnus of the doctoral program at New Mexico State University, I know first hand that Maggie will benefit greatly from the diverse critical perspectives the department has to offer. If you have any questions or would like to discuss her background further, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

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