December 2011

Dr. Jeanette Haynes Writer
Associate Department Head for Graduate Programs
Curriculum & Instruction
New Mexico State University
MSC 3CUR
Las Cruces, NM 88003

Dear Dr. Haynes Writer,

I write to express my interest in becoming a doctoral student in New Mexico State University's Curriculum and Instruction Online Program. The program at NMSU matches my educational and professional goals of growing as a critical educator. Though the Online Program does not require a specific program area of interest, I seek to learn the most from the broad spectrum of the classes offered.

As a professional, I have held various positions in education in both my certified fields of Mathematics and English. I spent one year teaching English at a rural high school. For five summers, I taught both English and Mathematics to low income, minority high school students through Upward Bound. I spent three years as the English/Mathematics Specialist assisting first generation, low income college students or students with a physical or learning disability. Currently, I serve as the Director of the Murphy Learning Center, a free tutoring center for all students at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. I also teach remedial mathematics courses and a first year seminar course. These formal experiences, as well as countless other education experiences I have gained through my professional development as a speaker, author, and researcher, have culminated in my desire to further my education by obtaining a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction.

During my graduate coursework, I began my study of the works of critical pedagogues such as Freire, Kincheloe, hooks, and Giroux. These theorists began radically transforming my views on education and society. By utilizing qualitative research practices of bricolage, critical, and grounded theories, I investigated pre-service elementary education students' beliefs, dispositions, and abilities regarding social justice pedagogy in the math classroom. These theories led me to seek a graduate program centered on critical pedagogy, which is why I desire to be a doctoral student in your program at New Mexico State University.

I am grateful for having this chance to apply as a candidate for the Online Doctoral Program. I know that at New Mexico State University, I will be able to achieve my goals and enrich my knowledge to improve as a critical educator. I look forward to hearing from you to further discuss my qualifications as a prospective doctoral candidate. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In gratitude,

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