UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

November 18, 2011

Re: Maggie L. McHugh

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Maggie L. McHugh for consideration as a student in New Mexico State University's Curriculum and Instruction doctoral program. It is my strong belief that Maggie will be a positive addition to your program as well as a great asset to your university.

This fall semester, I was lucky to serve as Maggie's graduate co-instructor for University Wide Learning (UWL) 100, an introductory first year seminar course geared to ease the transition into college. I saw firsthand the impact Maggie has on students. Her enthusiasm for learning paired with her experience in teaching not only made for an excellent course but allowed the 23 students in our section the ability to ask questions, address concerns, and state opinions to someone they saw as an authority figure and a friend. Maggie saw the potential in every student, and her passion for teaching was contagious. Our specific section of UWL 100 were for students who were eligible for services through Student Support Services (SSS), a federally funded program designed to assist students who have a diagnosed learning and/or physical disability, are low income, and/or are a first generation college student. Maggie addressed these qualities in very subtle yet affective ways in which I believe the students truly appreciated.

Because the course structure mainly was at the discretion of the instructors, Maggie used this course as an opportunity to bring to light issues that our society faces today. Our course topics ranged from white privilege to sustainability to hate and bias, and Maggie took each topic in stride, regardless of how novel or challenging the topic may have been to the students. She would address these issues in a multitude of teaching styles, appealing to a variety of learning methods. These hands-on teaching methods allowed the students to learn more about themselves, each other, and the specific topic the class was based upon through critical thinking exercises and student-led discussions. She truly believed in making the students well-informed citizens that will positively impact the campus community as well as the global community.

Personally, I appreciated how Maggie looked at me as more than just a graduate student. She would ask for my input on lesson plans and truly made me feel so much more than a graduate co-instructor. I am grateful I was able to work with her in this capacity, as she is someone I truly admire. As a doctoral student in this program, Maggie will shine. This is such a natural progression for her, who already is so impressive in her curriculum and instruction skills and abilities. I am confident that Maggie will be a wonderful addition to the Curriculum and Instruction online program.

Should there be any further information that I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me at lo.kali@uwlax.edu or (920) 851.6228.

Sincerely,

Ka Lia Lo
Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education Graduate Student
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

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