To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Kimberly Tollafield. I served as her university supervisor during the 2015 winter semester. She successfully completed fourteen weeks of student teaching at Carpenter Year Round Elementary School, Lake Orion Schools, in fourth grade.

Ms. Tollafield had various experiences working with children prior to student teaching. She worked at two separate Montessori summer programs as a classroom assistant with children, ages 2-8. For three summers Kimberly was a Royal Oak Sandlot League Softball Coach and also was involved with the Special Olympics for two summers. Many field experiences were required at SVSU that involved numerous responsibilities and she had opportunities to engage with grades first to fifth grade in which she practiced her teaching skills. These experiences enabled Kimberly to develop positive traits such as flexibility, compassion, creativity, confidence, and dependability, the qualities necessary to become a dedicated and committed teacher.

It takes a certain kind of person to be an elementary teacher and Ms. Tollafield is one of them. She motivated students and nurtured their desire to learn in a safe, healthy and supportive environment which included compassion and mutual respect. She was passionate about the students she taught and had a great deal of patience while knowing that little steps in learning goes a long way. Tollafield is a well-organized teacher and has the ability to pay close attention to detail. Kimberly understood the students and knew what motivated them and how to scaffold activities to ensure that maximum learning occurred. She constantly strived to 'reach and teach' every student under her care. She took all learning styles into account and created individual, small group, and whole group learning opportunities for all subjects. She provided effective classroom discussions, questioning, and learning tasks that promoted higher-order thinking skills. Technology was her strength and infused into her lessons.

Kimberly's passion for teaching is contagious! She strived to form positive relationships with the students by making it clear that she has students’ best interests at heart. Her eagerness for teaching made a difference in the motivation of the students. Kimberly has a great deal of integrity and holds high standards for herself. I am confident that Kimberly will be an asset to any school district because she is dependable, motivated, organized, loves teaching, and addresses the needs of her students effectively. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,
Justine Auffenorde, University Supervisor
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