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Re: Cadence Mitchell

To: whom it may concern

Cadence Mitchell has been a fantastic Teacher Candidate. In the first month of school, when she was only required to be *observing* my classes, she took the initiative to step in and teach portions of the period, or tutor small groups, or bring absent students quickly up to speed. From this first month, it was evident that Cadence had what it took to develop into a good classroom teacher.

While she has quite a bit of experience teaching Drama classes and productions, she is passionate in educating students in whatever subject she finds herself... and this was evident in the *pre-AP English-9* classes she has been working with all year. She easily used her experience of drama within the English classroom as she was able to create and weave in very tactile learning activities to make difficult and new concepts easier to understand, and this also helped get more students engaged in the curriculum—enhancing the overall learning experience for students. This is a natural response to one of Cadence's clear strengths: her immediate ability to gain rapport with students.

She has "the science" of teaching down just fine; she knows all the information and skills that our new Common Core requires our students to develop and have in this 21st century world. But "the art" of teaching—rare to rookie teachers—is what sets Cadence apart. Her competence and willingness to collaborate and learn has helped her grow into a confident and self-assessing teacher. She now thinks on her feet when students throw her a curveball, is creatively adjusting her lessons based on the instant feedback she gets from the students, and commands respect from even the most unmotivated students. She is not only hard-working and on top of all her lesson plans, she keeps the unit goals clear and adjusts her created curriculum appropriately as needed based on her students' grasp of the daily concepts.

Personally, I'm a bit of a control-freak, and I never like to *not* have control of my own classroom. But I am comfortable leaving the room with Cadence in charge, knowing that they are in very competent hands. She uses differentiated instruction through independent reading, she clearly communicates the lesson's and unit's objectives, and she's firm with her expectations so that she encourages even potentially misbehaving students to toe-the-line in class.

Any program would be fortunate to have her on their teaching team.

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