

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Andrew Roche for any teaching position that he is applying for. Andrew was a student in 3 of my courses, and I supervised Andrew during his Maymester teaching experience at an elementary school in Albion, Michigan. As a visiting assistant professor at Albion College, I believe he is well qualified and capable of achieving student learning.

In my experience with Andrew, he demonstrated a strong desire for student achievement in content and skills at the level. He not only encouraged his students to succeed by placing high standards and expectations as a norm in his classrooms, he also introduced them to new types of learning experiences. Andrew was determined to make learning enjoyable and relevant for his students, by deviating from traditional teaching methods and incorporating physical activities to increase participation and engagement. He took great risks developing detailed lesson plans that encouraged students to be creative and engage in the process of writing. In his Maymester teaching experience, Andrew modeled the process of writing a Haiku poem to a 1st grade class. He created an anchor chart for the students that he referred to periodically to help the students make progress. He also demonstrated how to count syllables, in order to create the Haiku rhythm. To bring the poetry to life for the students, Andrew asked the students to create Haiku's about their mothers and paint a picture frame to present them in. Each student was able to address their poetry to his or her own mother, and mount the poems in very personalized frames. Furthermore, Andrew added physical activity to this learning experience. He took his 1st grade classroom outside and had them decorate the sidewalk with their Haikus using sidewalk chalk. In this activity, the students not only learned about the content, they also learned about themselves and each other. Andrew used skillful classroom management and a strong content background to help guide his students through a potentially difficult learning experience. It was impressive! His consistent and focused work demonstrated a firm desire and effort to improve English/Language Arts learning for his students. It is worth mentioning: After Andrew completed his Maymester experience, a "grandmother," an adult teaching aid in the classroom, pulled me aside to tell me how impressed she was of Andrew and his work in that classroom. She admired and respected his enthusiasm and appreciated his high expectations for students. Andrew demonstrated strong leadership, initiative, and teaching skills.

Andrew demonstrates organization, reliability, and great student rapport. Andrew can work independently and is able to follow through to ensure that his work is complete and thorough. He accomplishes these tasks with great initiative and with a very positive attitude. Moreover, Andrew has great relationships with students, making him an excellent resource for a diverse student population. I have watched him handle difficult situations in the classroom with professionalism and compassion.

I recommend Andrew Roche to you without reservation. If you have any further questions with regard to his background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
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