



28 May 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of reference for Andrew Roche who has applied for either an internship or a teaching position at your institution. I am particularly pleased to recommend him because he is a fine young man who is passionate about teaching and who is wonderfully creative.

Since meeting Andrew during his “Maymester” experience at Albion College, I have been following his college career. “Maymester,” which is officially called “Boundary Crossings” is a concentrated pre-student teaching field experience. It was at that time that I first noticed Andrew because he had developed a unit plan for first graders that engaged them in writing Haiku for their grandparents or family members. They were encouraged to think about their own personalities and the qualities of those who influenced them, as they framed their poetry. In a very simple exercise, they also learned about syllables (albeit, not the word itself) and reinforced their counting skills. It never crossed my mind that the very young could engage in such self-reflection and even write Haiku, but what he constructed really worked.

While I have not seen Andrew teach, I know that the Education Department at Albion thinks highly of him. He has invested deeply in his future profession, and he has sought out experiences beyond Albion College and our network of field placements including his work last summer at St. Paul’s School in Concord, New Hampshire. In January he traveled with a small group of students to Noisy-le-Roi in France for our international practicum at the elementary and middle school there. I must admit that I loved reading his blog during that time. He commented on everything from the fabulous cuisine of his host family, to children’s perceptions of Americans, to being in the City of Light. As he has also indicated, he is an avid athlete, and he uses those experiences to teach students the arts of team playing and the skills of leadership.

You have likely not met Andrew, but he stands head and shoulders above most others. Indeed, he is somewhat tall, but he is not the least intimidating. He is wonderfully human, humane, and non-predisposed. He appears very quiet at first encounter, which he can be when it is appropriate; but he also holds a charm, a wit, and a spark to ignite a class of young learners. I encourage you to interview him so that you will come to know him. He loves what he does, and he will not disappoint you.

If you would like to speak with me further, please feel free to contact me at [sconner@albion.edu](mailto:sconner@albion.edu) or 517-629-0222.

Sincerely,

Susan P. Conner, Ph.D.  
Professor of History  
Provost