

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

April 6, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my highest possible recommendation for Sarah Anthony's application for a social studies teaching position. I have known her since August 2013 as her social studies methods instructor in the Teacher Preparation Program at MSU. Ms. Anthony is exceptionally talented, bright and passionate about critical issues in education. She is one of the finest students I have had the pleasure to work with.

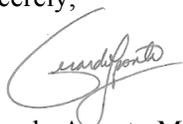
Ms. Anthony was an exceptional student in class. She demonstrated leadership by diligently serving as the student representative for our course section in the Student Advisory Council for Teacher Preparation. Given that our course took place within a middle school setting, Sarah was quick to take advantage of the multiple opportunities to connect with teachers and students beyond the traditional field experience, including teacher professional developments, visits to other subject classes, and teaching. Her work is always timely and of the highest quality. Her contributions to class discussions went beyond right answers and technicalities of teaching practices, which is typical of students in the methods course; instead, she demonstrated critical thinking and sought to understand the nuances of our profession by asking questions beyond how-tos.

Sarah was and remains highly reflective on her practice. She seeks guidance from multiple resources, both from mentors and instructors and from online materials. She definitely goes above and beyond the requirements to do the best job she can.

Sarah's capstone project for our course was a unit plan using student inquiry and discovery to explore why we have a government and how citizens can be involved in government. The unit engaged students in critical thinking, literacy, and historical thinking skills. She demonstrates a commitment to integral education for learners through a comprehensive vision of social studies focused around reflective inquiry through real-world and interdisciplinary connections. The unit is one of many examples of how Sarah demonstrates great thoughtfulness and purpose in matching instructional strategies to topics while differentiating instruction for diverse learners.

I believe Ms. Anthony's strong work ethic, her determination and creativity, and her passion for teaching make her an ideal candidate to work with students in Michigan or elsewhere. I offer my highest possible recommendation for Sarah Anthony's application. I have no doubt that she will be an outstanding addition to your faculty.

Sincerely,



Gerardo Aponte-Martínez  
Instructor



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