

July 7, 2014

Dr. Katherine Trela
Education Department, Dyson 327
Marist College
3399 North Road
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

Dear Dr. Trela (Katherine),

This letter serves as my agreement to serve as a collaborative partner on your grant project titled Project CORE: Clear Outcomes, Raised Expectations for Students with Significant Disabilities at Marist College. I have read the abstract and support the work of developing and evaluating a model of professional development for teachers of students with significant disabilities as they carry out the important work of aligning instruction to common core academic standards and connecting that learning to students' daily lives.

In your work as Research Associate at University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Grant # H324M03003, Reading, Writing, Math and Science for Student with Significant Cognitive Disabilities), you were involved on a daily basis with managing training and follow up classroom support sessions as well as adapting materials that supported the goals of the grant. This work provided a foundation for subsequent research (Grant # R324A080014, Project MASTERY) that continued to give guidance to teachers to realign instruction to grade appropriate academic standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities. I support the goals of Project CORE, to more closely evaluate a model of professional development that bridges the "research to practice" gap, and so will offer guidance and expertise to your research team as a collaborative partner. As such, I understand that I will contribute 5 days each in the summers of 2015 and 2016 to: (1) support development and distribution of teacher and administrator surveys (Summer, 2015) and (2) subsequent compilation of results from those surveys (Summer, 2016).

Thank you for this opportunity and best of luck with your grant proposal.

Sincerely,



Maria Timberlake, PhD
Assistant Professor