



Department of Foundations and Social Advocacy

To: Graduate Admissions, SUNY. University at Albany

From: Maria Timberlake, Associate Professor

I am writing to recommend Kathleen Drake for your graduate program in Curriculum and Instruction. I was an instructor for one of Kathleen's early courses at SUNY Cortland where she left a lasting impression as an excellent student. Kathleen had a variety of courses and experiences after she left my class but we've remained in contact and I'm happy to endorse her application to continue her education.

My reference for Kathleen is a little different than the letters I often write for former students. I met Kathleen in an introductory course in 2014 where I was impressed with her strong work ethic and ability to be thoughtful about children and their needs. She worked well with others in a variety of small group activities and, notably, she understood the importance of building community and how to deliberately create a welcoming climate in her future classroom. I did not have Kathleen for the later courses around student teaching so I cannot provide specifics about her classroom performance. I can however, confidently tell you that Kathleen was a delightful person to have in class and she left a very positive impression. She was reserved but kind and open. I'm pointing this out because sometimes students that are the most outgoing and confident go into their student teaching experiences with gusto and do very well. Kathleen is a quieter person and she had to navigate the demands of teaching, develop her confidence and find her voice. She has questioned whether teaching was for her, and I'm glad that she has decided to stay in the field. We really need teachers who are sensitive and tread more softly – we have such a diversity of students and we need a diversity of styles and personalities in our teachers. Kathleen has been thoughtful about her career and is mature and ready to meet the challenges of graduate school.

I feel certain that Kathleen has the academic preparation to be successful in your Curriculum and Instruction program and she has personal qualities that you will appreciate too.

I am happy to speak with you about my impressions of Kathleen so please contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at 607 753-5937 or maria.timberlake@cortland.edu

Sincerely,

Maria Timberlake, PhD

Please excuse my lack of handwritten signature, I am away from a working printer and want to get Kathleen's letter submitted ASAP. Please let me know if this is not acceptable.