



Ocean View High School

A California Distinguished School

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To Whom It May Concern:

It has been my joy and great pleasure to work with Sonia Duarte during the fall semester. Sonia was my student teacher during my 0 period freshmen English class...I can still hear her students groaning when she reminded them that she would not be teaching them during the second semester! This was no surprise, because not only is Sonia a very capable teacher in the classroom, but she has a unique gift of connecting with her students—they respect her, listen to and laugh with her, and learn from her.

Sonia is highly knowledgeable in her content area, organized, and has an eye for detail in organizing the curriculum—Sonia designed her lessons to be accessible to all students. When Sonia introduced new information or began new lessons, she never failed to draw on students' experience, and she made sure that students understood the lesson's objective.

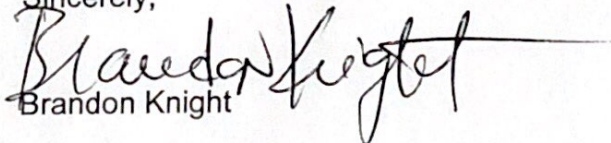
I was especially impressed with Sonia's ability to keep all her students engaged, using various activities and strategies to ensure that they stayed involved. Her expectations for classroom behavior and performance were always clear, and she provided various options for students to meet her objectives and expectations.

I must return to Sonia's ability to connect with students...and how that bond contributes to Sonia's effectiveness as a teacher. Sonia spoke often of her experiences as a high school student, her struggles and her dreams. Students felt connected with her, respected her, and worked to please her. As a result of students' gained trust, they felt secure, and the classroom environment allowed them to take risks in their learning, building confidence and fostering the experience of success.

Sonia has a bright future in the teaching profession, and she would prove to be an invaluable asset to any school that hires her. We will have an opening in English at the end of this school year. My hope is that Sonia will be available to interview for that position.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,


Brandon Knight