

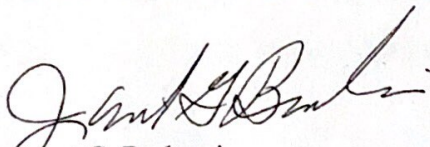
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

RE; SONIA DUARTE

I am very pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Sonia Duarte whom I have supervised as a Student Teacher for National University during the Fall School Semester of 2006-7. I observed her teaching 10th Grade English classes at Ocean View High School in the Huntington Beach Union High School District. Sonia is dedicated to a career in teaching and is very enthusiastic about her student teaching assignment. She has had some substitute teaching experience before student teaching, and has brought familiarity with school routines, student diversity and needs along with the knowledge and skill in working with school personnel. Her academic preparation is excellent as is her educational training for the classroom. Her goals and objectives are well thought out and aligned with the California State Curriculum standards for English.

Creativity and a variety of teaching methods are present in her class presentations. She uses many educational approaches to ensure that her students learn the material presented. When introducing OF MICE AND MEN to an average class of "not very interested students", she draws in student interest to the plot, so that they are enthusiastic to read the story with a variety of activities and learning styles.. She has developed artistic, kinesthetic, visual and oral learning projects to account for student learning diversity and interests.including individual and group class presentations giving students public speaking experience and helping their confidence levels . While strongly adhering to state curriculum standards and her teaching goals, she has remained flexible in working with school scheduling and unexpected changes in time frames. She has adjusted her teaching schedule as needed to accommodate block scheduling and has met her teaching goals and objectives. Sonia has been developing strong discipline strategies which are very effective with diverse student populations, yet at the same time she has a strong empathy with students and is easily approachable by students. She is caring toward her students and yet has achieved the vital balance of appropriate teacher-student relationships. In her teaching assignments, Sonia has taken the time to learn about and understand individual student talents, learning styles and needs and has adjusted her teaching to meet the needs of her student population. She is excellent in pacing her instruction to meet her objectives for the day and to positively comment on student performance. Sonia makes good use of large and small group activities and incorporates many opportunities for students to speak in front of classes. Students feel comfortable in talking with her, and she interacts with them in very positive ways. It is clear from observing her interaction with students that they enjoy having her as their teacher.

At all times Sonia conducts herself in a professional manner. Her professionalism and expertise act as a role model for her students. Her empathetic approach toward students and her comfortable interaction with them enriches her teaching. With an excellent academic background, teaching experiences and maturity, Sonia is an excellent teacher. She will be an asset to any school district.


Janet G. Barkawi
Field Supervisor