



WILLAMETTE
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SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
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Letter of Recommendation for Marta Bunse

I'm delighted to recommend Marta Bunse for an English or English as a Second Language teaching position at the middle school or high school level. I have had the good fortune to work with Marta as a student in my secondary level Planning and Implementation and Graduate Seminar courses and as her university supervisor for her practicum and student teaching experiences.

I have been continually impressed with Marta's ability to relate to students of all ability levels. I have observed her in Read 180 classes and ESOL classes working with students who have not often been successful in school. She establishes and maintains respectful, supportive classroom environments where student are comfortable and engaged in learning. She does this by setting clear expectations, modeling sincere respect and by getting to know her students. In her Film as Literature class I heard her insert into a comment to a student "You are a fan of Westerns aren't you? I remember that from your journal." That attention to getting to know her students, along with the care and attention she took in making her classes interesting, prevented classroom disruptions. She used a variety of strategies to encourage students to be on-task throughout their 90-minute class. Marta is sincerely interested in finding ways to help all students succeed and communicates that commitment to students. She works with students individually, takes care to make lessons relevant and interesting, and actively develops positive relationships with students in order to provide all of her students with a real opportunity for academic success.

Marta should be commended for the effort and creativity she puts into planning units and lessons for her classes. She effectively uses a variety of teaching and assessment strategies that incorporate technology and meet the needs of learners at a range of ability levels. She effectively models the processes she wants her students

to follow and uses graphic organizers and other scaffolding strategies to support their learning. For example, when teaching students how to write a film critique, she presented examples and led students in a process of identifying and defining effective characteristics of the genre, showed them a critique she had written and had them analyze her piece using a rubric, and then provided them with an outline structure to organize their thinking and writing. When I observed her practicum teaching in middle school, I was continually impressed with her ability to generate a high level of critical thinking from her students. She had her classes engaged in relevant and productive activities and discussing meaningful and complex questions. She thoughtfully used examples that would engage her students and help them relate to the learning. In her ESOL class, this included a discussion of a Diego Rivera painting.

Marta is well liked and respected by her MAT colleagues and by the teachers at the middle school and two high schools where she has student taught. She is exceptionally professional in everything she does; she works hard and actively seeks ways to learn how to become an even stronger teacher. She will fit in well within any department and faculty and will continue to be an excellent role model for middle and high school age students.

I am confident that Marta will be a significant asset to the field of education and make valuable contributions to the school district that hires her. If you have further questions please feel welcome to call me at Willamette (503) 580 3424 or contact me through email at khamlin@willamette.edu.

Sincerely,

Karen DeShon Hamlin, Ph.D.
Professor of Education
Willamette University