*Prompt A Response

There are two areas I have interest in teaching and wish to be endorsed: middle level mathematics and English Language/Multilingual Learning (EL/ML). I will briefly discuss my interest in both endorsements, my areas for growth, and plans to continue to learn more about the subject of math and EL/ML teaching. First, I want to be a middle level math teacher with an ELL endorsement. As a multilingual learner, Spanish is my heritage language, I understand firsthand the difficulty ML students have with academic language and content. I know my love of math that I excelled in during middle school, but also know the pressure among peers to not take education too seriously. In middle school, I was always taking more difficult math classes like Pre Algebra and Algebra in 7th and 8th grade because I enjoyed math and was good at it. Yet, in high school, I felt pressure to pursue other skills I had, and math courses were not widely seen as a path I felt I should take. At the first college I attended, Shoreline Community College, I took a statistics class. I knew I wanted to teach and had a natural ability toward math, but the way the class was taught, not to mention the content itself, was difficult and not made to support an ML learner. That moment was when I started to realize that I also wanted to teach and make an impact in students' lives. I never really connected with my teachers in high school and college, yet I knew I wanted to be a teacher who my students would look up to as a role model. Secondly, areas for growth and next steps regarding mathematics, I plan to do an ILC winter quarter 2023 with two professors at Evergreen to study and learn intensively more math content. I am serious about teaching. I want to use my passion for math and EL/ML learning to help students discover new ways of knowing and more ways to make connections while using math. As a middle school student, I felt comfortable and supported by my teachers who allowed me to enjoy learning, and that is what I want to offer my students. Additionally, while a student at the University of Washington (Bothell), I became interested in classes that addressed problems in society which led me to take Ethnic Study classes. These classes helped me understand the intersections of Gender and Women's Studies, and Latinx Studies. These classes allowed me to understand how making a change in the world we live in is so important. Finally, the Latinx Studies, and the course I am taking right now at Evergreen called "Teaching ELLs," have guided me toward reaching my potential as a bilingual teacher. An important strength I possess as a multilingual speaker is understanding the struggles and barriers many students who immigrate to the United States face in schools. I feel I have a lot to offer students to help them become so much more than what they think their potential is. For me, I want to help EL/ML students achieve their goals, and so much more. I want them to feel safe and most importantly, I want them to not give up on school, especially in a country where education is so important. That's why I am choosing to apply for the EL Integration Pathway to teach math and EL/ML students in a middle school.