

Elyssa Conn

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To: Graduate Admissions <graduateadmissions@evergreen.edu>

To whom it may concern,

I was so excited to learn that Elyssa is applying to earn her master's in teaching! Elyssa came to The Valley School to learn more about teaching and to dip her toe into the field by subbing at our small, independent school. She is just one of those people for whom it came naturally. Right from day one, I could see how she noticed the details of the work and used that awareness to build relationships and hone her craft.

After that first initial year, I had the good fortune to work alongside Elyssa for the next four years. In that time, I observed how she used interactions with students as well as feedback from colleagues to grow her practice. Initially, my head of school had been wary of hiring her because she didn't yet have a college degree. I (as well as several other colleagues) impressed upon him that her talents were just not something we should be overlooking because of a lack of schooling. Having worked in the field for nearly 30 years, I have seen quite a few cohorts come and go. Some of them had "it" and some did not. In the end, it wasn't the degrees they held, but their dedication to meeting the student right before them.

Elyssa Conn has "it" already. And yet, I can wait to see what else she'll bring to a classroom after she has the chance to study and question and explore the field through your program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely, Jill Rufsvold

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Pre-K Teacher
The Valley School
she/her/hers