

Application Related Information

Application: Application Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MIT

Iteration Name: 202330_GR_G
Program Name: MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Rob Rang
Recommenders Institution: Mount Tahoma High School
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommenders Title: Teacher
Contact Name: Michaela Hansen
Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✗

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 08/11/2022 08:58 AM

Recommender Assessment:

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000107781794

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

Applicant ability as self-directed learner:

Time since last contact with applicant:

Applicant as productive member of group:

Relationship with Applicant:

Applicant most significant strengths:

Ability to complete rigorous grad program:

Responsibility/reliability:

Communication Skills - Oral:

Communication skills - written:

Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:

Ability to work independently:

Ability to handle stress:

Ability to think critically:

Ability to analyze/problem solve:

Ability to think creatively:

Openness to feedback:

Potential for leadership:

Ability to work in a team:

Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu>

Other Information

Created Time: 08/02/2022 09:35 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 08/11/2022 09:32 AM

Modified By: Shalimar Pedersen

August 4, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to enthusiastically endorse Ms. Michaela Hansen for employment consideration as an English teacher for Tacoma Public Schools.

For the sake of transparency, it should be noted that Ms. Hansen is a personal friend of mine. She was introduced to me well over a decade ago by my wife, who also works in the educational field. While she may have been granted an opportunity to cover my class based on our friendship, the professionalism demonstrated by Ms. Hansen during her coverage of my classes during a challenging 2021-2022 school year (including on T-Bird Day!) far exceeded any expectations I could have reasonably held.

Ms. Hansen served as a guest teacher in my classroom over several days last year. She earned rave reviews from my students, as well as the fellow teachers at Mount Tahoma High School. She followed the lesson plans dutifully, but also demonstrated the creativity and confidence to supplement these ideas with her own when she sensed students losing interest, specifically incorporating poetry, writing prompts and conversation with a highly diverse and (at times) challenging student population.

Each time I have a substitute teacher, I ask the students to evaluate them upon my return to the classroom. One trusted college-bound upperclassman provided one of the strongest recommendations I've ever heard from a student – sharing that Ms. Hansen took “extra time” to assist students in understanding the lesson, explaining the material in multiple ways and working with individual students to assure their comprehension and opportunity to turn in work. According to this upperclassman, as well as younger students in my AP Human Geography classes, Ms. Hansen showed the ability to simultaneously encourage all students to participate, while wisely focusing on those actively engaged and not losing her cool on those refusing to participate. Her ability to reach all – but forcing none -- while maintaining a calm learning environment earned her trust and respect from students and staff, alike.

That may sound like an exaggeration but consider that the teacher whose classroom is next to mine – our fabulous Korean teacher Mrs. Lee – also shared how impressed that she was with Ms. Hansen. For a variety of reasons, I missed several days during the 2021-2022 academic year and none of the other substitute generated kind, respectful compliments from students and staff for their work. Frankly, in my 20+ years serving as a teacher in Tacoma Public Schools, I can only recall a few other instances in which guest teachers were so honored. All of them have since gone on to highly successful teaching careers. Unfortunately, not all in Tacoma.

As you likely well know, MT is a special place with a unique student body. There are many quality teachers in our district who – while maybe effective elsewhere – perhaps are not the greatest of fits with the Thunderbirds.

It is with that understanding that I so enthusiastically recommend Ms. Hansen. I simply don't want our school or district losing yet another talented educator from our own community. She is enthusiastic, charismatic, intelligent, passionate and a born leader. Should a position in the English department open at Mount Tahoma, I believe Ms. Hansen would be an excellent addition to the staff.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rob Rang

Mount Tahoma Teacher (2004-present) and Graduate (C/O 1994)

253-227-3259

rrang@tacoma.k12.wa.us