

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Kevin Young for acceptance into the Masters in Teaching program at The Evergreen State College. I am a Biology Teacher at Timberline High School with a Masters in Teaching and have known Kevin personally and professionally for 10 years.

When I met Kevin, he was finishing his Masters in Environmental Science at the University of Houston Clear Lake. I knew him to be an academically strong and driven student with a passion for biology and environmental issues. Prior to coming into the program, he spent years as a field biologist, traveling all over the country as well as Costa Rica and Panama. Due to his extensive experience, he had an understanding of what it means to practice science in the real world, something that myself and fellow classmates routinely inquired about. Over the years I have known him, he has maintained this same dedication and passion for the field of biology, especially when it relates to environmental issues. You would be hard pressed to find a candidate with a greater understanding of what it means to be a “real” biologist than Kevin, a quality that would be highly beneficial to have as a teacher of the subject.

More recently, during this past school year, Kevin observed in my classroom for several days where he was able to seamlessly interact with the students and contribute to activities. He had positive interactions with the students and jumped right in by helping to answer student questions during a stations activity. I was impressed to see that he did not appear apprehensive when it came to interacting with students and seemed to “fit in” to the classroom setting. He did not hesitate to ask questions if he had them and was an enthusiastic participant during his time in my class. When Kevin substituted this past year at Timberline, the teacher he filled in for had positive comments about his performance, saying he communicated well and that the planned activity went according to the instructions.

Besides content knowledge and professional experience, and perhaps most importantly, Kevin is an outstanding caregiver and a true natural with children. As the father of my daughter, I could not ask for a better co-parent. Our daughter is the kind, funny, silly, and smart girl due in part to the love and attention he has poured into her. He has shown time and time again that he is a supportive, nurturing, and loving parent and I know, more than anything else, that these qualities will translate to his students in the classroom. I have full faith that he would build positive, long lasting relationships with his students and treat them with the respect and kindness they deserve.

Based on my experience with Kevin, I believe he will make a truly exceptional science teacher. He has a wealth of experience to bring to the classroom and has a strong desire to make a positive impact on the lives and environment around him. His natural caregiving abilities and experience as a parent will help him connect with students from all backgrounds. It is both my personal and professional opinion that he would be a tremendous asset to your program and to the public school system at large. These are the reasons why I recommend him without reservation to the teaching program at Evergreen State College.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at ecameron@nthurston.k12.wa.us or by phone at 425-877-0133.

Sincerely,

Elise Cameron
Biology Teacher, Timberline Highschool