August 31, 2010

Dear Loren,

I have read your self-evaluation and concur with your list of accomplishments and agree with your goals for next year. You were effective in executing your standard responsibilities while at the same time increasing your creative endeavors to support the program and its graduates. Your work this year seems characterized by renewed excitement and enthusiasm! From *Facebook,* to new marketing schemes, to ad campaigns, to increased district visits, to new ideas for your winter workshops, your efforts, and future plans, are all focused on effective communication and highlighting the excellent work of our graduates. You are truly an essential and effective ambassador as you bridge our world with the world of K-12.

Your *Facebook* journeys seem to really be paying off in increased contact with alumni, including helping you find excellent placements for our teacher candidates. I’m eager to see other ways we can develop the potential for using this venue, including our next venture in identifying and acknowledging an outstanding alumnus. I am relying on you and Lynarra to get the nomination process off the ground and am looking forward to hearing about all the excellent work of our alumni. Perhaps you should ask Jason to tweet? twitter? squeak? some type of announcement about this up-coming award.

I think I am as excited as you are about your ideas for developing and marketing merchandise that can be used to build a scholarship for teacher education students. I’m really looking forward to seeing the logos you, Anne Mary, and Alyssa develop. Were you an entrepreneur in a past life?

Another area that I look forward to seeing you develop is the expansion of your winter workshops to include a session with alumni who are effective teachers AND those who are teaching outside the public school arena. I think this idea has a great deal of potential to encourage our graduates in a weak job market and to enrich our conversations within the program about a wider view of education.

I want to thank you for persevering with me in getting all the handbooks, guidelines, and web pages updated and accurate. It was a tedious job but an important one and I really needed and appreciated your collaboration.

I am delighted that you will be representing us at the Teachers for Social Justice conference! Please take time to attend some sessions as well as inform people about our programs. I will enjoy hearing about conference presentations and am eager to have you share what you learned with faculty – and candidates during winter workshops. I also hope you DO sign up for an Excel workshop or encourage Lynne to offer us an in-house tutorial. Are there classes you could take to support your efforts to develop electronic placement files?

One area I would encourage you to explore has to do with enforcing reasonable boundaries and asserting appropriate authority with students. I encourage you to be clear with our work-study students about their responsibilities and that you enforce our expectations for timeliness and productivity. Certainly I think your friendliness is important in your work with them but I also think you need to convey that behind the friendliness is a boss ☺. You might think about how this is also related to making placements. I know you want to help the candidates get what they want but I hope you’ll work from the very first practicum experience to let them know that what they want isn’t necessarily what you will be able to arrange. Perhaps we need to change the wording on the request forms?

As was true last year, I thank you again for your dedication to the students with whom we work, your honesty as a colleague, and your genuine compassion.

Sherry Walton, Director

Evergreen Teacher Education Programs