



University of Nevada, Reno
AT LAKE TAHOE

To whom it may concern:

I am teaching on a Letter of Appointment at the University of Nevada, Reno. Prior to that I was an Assistant Professor in Teacher Education at Sierra Nevada University (SNU) located in Incline Village and Reno, Nevada. I retired from public school teaching in August of 2016 after teaching science for 42 years. I have seen the good, the bad, and the ugly of teachers over my career. Over that time period, I met very few new teachers who “get it” right from the start. Rachel Lopez gets it.

I first met Rachel Lopez in the fall of 2020 when she enrolled in the Master’s Program at SNU and we met for advisement. In addition to being Rachel’s academic advisor, I was her instructor for Effective Instructional Practices and Classroom Management, Secondary Teaching Methods, and Secondary Practicum. When I say Rachel “gets it,” I mean that she demonstrates a knowledge of the way schools work and a knowledge of children. Rachel has an enthusiasm for authentic experiences in the art classroom. This is something that is so important for today’s students. She doesn’t rely on books and pre-packaged curricula to provide for students. Rachel has demonstrated her ability to thoughtfully design good curriculum units in art.

With regard to working with students, I have not seen Rachel interact with actual children. But, I see in Rachel the teacher who goes above and beyond to provide meaningful experiences for her students. She taught a virtual lesson to our Secondary Teaching Methods class and had all of us engaged and actively participating.

Rachel has a keen and analytic mind that endeavors to make sense of things. She won’t be a “robot” teacher. She will question and discuss, making sense of what’s being asked of her and her students. She will seek what is best for her students, ensuring their success.

I highly recommend Rachel Lopez for any art position. The school that hires her will not be disappointed. If you need further information or to talk in person, please do not hesitate to email or call me. My email is cwhitcome@unr.edu and my phone is (775) 721-6051.

Warm regards,

Christine Whitcome

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