

To Whom It May Concern:

Jill was a student in one of the first “on-site” masters programs we held at WSU in the early 90’s. She actually interviewed for a position in an elementary school at which I was the principal and we selected her as our first choice. Unfortunately for us, she was seeking a middle level position as her first choice; what a dynamic candidate with her Peace Corp background and incredible commitment and passion for children! As the master’s student, she proved no less outstanding!

During the two-year master’s program, Jill conducted action research on current topics and was required to make presentations individually and with peers. Her collaborative skills were truly of the highest leadership quality. The work she completed was scholarship level and the commitment to always do more, to seek a better way, stands out in my mind as I review her studies now. Peers looked to Jill for ‘out of the box’ suggestions that could match the contextual factors of the students they were using in their research.

When completing her portfolio, preparing and then presenting her research, Jill clearly demonstrated problem-solving skills that put her ahead of her peers. She chose to work with the greatest poverty students Wichita Public Schools could offer. She managed to support their learning in creative ways that enhanced not only their learning but also their relationships with each other in a school that only admits the ‘outcasts’ of their peer group.

Wherever Jill does this work toward the guild of scholars, she will endeavor to find the greatest link to building academic strengths for the selected institution and more importantly, for the students her research might touch! [If it can’t be WSU 😊.]

With education at heart,

Penny C. Longhofer, College of Education-WSU