

November, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of reference in support of Mrs. Jill Gonzalez-Bravo as she seeks a full-time position in higher education. I have known and worked closely with Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo for the last two years at MidAmerica Nazarene University. I can attest to the host of strengths she possesses as an instructor, scholar and member of the adjunct teaching faculty in Teacher Education.

At MNU Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo provides instruction to K-12 teacher candidates in the Curriculum & Assessment course. She also teaches a Math Methods course for candidates in the elementary education program. In both of these field-based classes, Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo is required to visit candidates on site in K-12 schools, assess their development and performance, and conference with candidates and mentor teachers about their progress. These field-based duties put Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo in K-12 schools as well as on campus on an almost daily basis where she consistently displays a heart for students and the profession.

Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo's experiences as a K-12 teacher in Wichita, Kansas schools, along with her experience living and working abroad, also made her an asset to the unit in the area of diversity. For a time she taught the Cultural Diversity course and designed a number of experiences to help candidates increase their knowledge of diverse students and gain strategies for working with diverse learners in the classroom. Additionally, several candidates in her Curriculum & Assessment course participated in a service learning project writing curriculum to educate others about the African country of Uganda.

I had the privilege to work with Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo on several administrative tasks as I chaired the Department of Teacher Education at MNU. From that unique vantage point, I also recognized Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo's contributions to the unit. She was part of the last NCATE review visit. She offered insights into the Teacher Work Sample documents and manual and regularly served as an assessor of candidates' completed TWS documents. She attended adjunct faculty meetings and often participated in work-related initiatives and social gatherings with full-time faculty in the unit. Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo was timely with paperwork, kept professional commitments, and established herself as an integral part of our instructional team.

Along with her teaching and service involvement, Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo continued to advance her own education and research. During my time as Chair she applied and was accepted into her doctoral program. She often came in to report on her progress and discuss her personal and professional goals. I was pleased to see her diligent efforts as a life-long learner.

I have great respect for Mrs. Gonzalez-Bravo both as a colleague and professional. I know she is seeking full-time employment opportunities, and I wish to support her efforts wholeheartedly as she is a strong and contributing faculty member. I believe she will be an asset to any unit she joins. Please let me know if I can assist you further as you review her application and credentials.

Sincerely,

Karen Garber-Miller

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