

# MIDAMERICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

*School of Education and Counseling  
Department of Education*

November 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Establishing visionary practices in education requires innovation and know-how. Jill Gonzalez-Bravo possesses these attributes, affecting positive change in schools as she prepares teacher candidates to serve in K-12 environments. Her passion for math and science, and the broader field of education fuel an engaging, collegiate classroom and inspiring work ethic.

Transformational service well summarizes Jill's time at MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU). As her colleague, I see pre-service teachers challenged to reach all K-12 student populations and well prepared to use the skills she imparts. There is great continuity in our Curriculum Development & Assessment course as Jill aligns her course outcomes with the department's vision for excellence. Jill's work in our Elementary Math Methods course has resulted in real-time experiential learning for our teacher candidates as they tutor students achieving below state standards in math through a service learning project in the Shawnee Mission School District. Students are utilizing assessment and math skills that will transform their future classrooms and professional learning communities.

The structure of Professor Gonzalez-Bravo's classroom provides students with a sound foundation of theory paving the way for the execution of "unit by design" strategies yielding the highest of student achievement. Pre-service teachers leave our program prepared to design instruction and assess student achievement. Jill provides opportunities for authentic practice of taught methodologies through a service-learning project in partnership with AOET-USA, an AIDS orphan and empowerment organization based in Uganda.

Professor Gonzalez-Bravo continually reads and analyzes trends in education for application in her classroom. Whether designing teaching tools modeled after Marzano's 9 Teaching Principles or creating KUDA lessons, Jill is embracing cutting edge practices. This is not limited to her classroom. Jill's willingness to share her expertise with the faculty demonstrates her commitment to improvement and the field.

Professor Gonzalez-Bravo's service extends beyond her classroom and partnerships with field sites. She provides staff development to MNU's Clinical Mentoring Team partners. All of her service is volunteered and is a manifestation of her dedication to the profession and PK-12 student growth.

Jill's service as a team member allows our department to flourish. Her ability to investigate and analyze the art and science of teaching allows for progressive contributions to the field. As she has done for MNU, Jill will transform and enhance any institution in which she serves.

Sincerely,



Nancy Damron, PhD  
Chair, Teacher Education  
MidAmerica Nazarene University  
Teacher Education Division Metz 215  
(office) 913-971-3521  
(fax) 913-971-3407  
nldamron@mnu.edu