

July 27, 2018

Dr. Mary Jones, Provost
Tenure/ Advancement Committee
MidAmerica Nazarene University
2030 E. College Way
Olathe, KS 66062

RE: Jill Gonzalez-Bravo

I am writing this letter of support for the consideration of advancement of **Dr. Jill Gonzalez-Bravo**, currently serving as Assistant Professor & Director of Clinical and Field Based Experiences at MidAmerica Nazarene University. I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Gonzalez-Bravo over the past several years while I was teaching at Kansas State University and more recently through the Association of Teacher Educators, both at the national (ATE) and state (ATE-K) level. In our interactions, I find her to exhibit several qualities which I feel are essential in working to prepare future educators. Dr. Gonzalez-Bravo has **excellent communication skills**, she is a **strong collaborator** and she is **dedicated to the profession of teaching**.

Dr. Gonzalez-Bravo has strong communication skills. Teaching is a “people” business and strong oral and written communication skills are critical in clearly communicating not only the content of standards and curriculum but dispositional expectations as well. It has been my own personal experience that when working with teacher candidates during field placements, difficult issues can arise and challenging conversations must occur. I have no doubt that Jill’s professional and compassionate demeanor is greatly beneficial during those necessary conversations. I have enjoyed engaging in professional conversations with Jill related to the joys and challenges of working with teacher candidates. She clearly and confidently shares her professional wisdom and listens thoughtfully to the ideas of others. She asks good questions and seeks to understand the view others may have on issues in teacher education. Other teacher educators throughout the country have been blessed to learn from her during her well-organized, professional presentations at our state and national ATE meetings.

Jill has recently served as the ATE-K secretary and in that role has recorded the business of our organization and disseminated that information in a timely and professional manner. Her attention to detail and her organizational skills have allowed us to keep our members informed regarding current issues in teacher education and the important work we are doing. Her technology expertise provides our organization with a wonderful model of how technology can enhance and assist us in our work. She serves as the ATE-K representative at the Kansas Learning First Alliance meetings in Topeka as a voice for higher education several times a year, gathering and sharing critical information related to PK-16 education in Kansas.

Dr. Gonzalez-Bravo values collaboration. Exemplary teacher preparation occurs through meaningful partnerships between communities, PK-12 educators and higher education. It

is evident that Dr. Gonzalez-Bravo has worked to establish strong partnerships in her work at MidAmerica Nazarene. She has also collaborated in our work with ATE-K and ATE. Jill has been a member of our executive board which includes teacher educators from private and public institutions of higher education from across the state. She has provided service to the organization in facilitating our Kansas state conference that provides an opportunity for teacher educators across the state share in a day of professional dialogue. She seeks out professional learning experiences in which professional collaboration can inform her research. Jill was inducted into the ATE Leadership Academy in Chicago, Illinois that provided her with the unique experience of meeting with other educational leaders for collaborative conversations and was honored as an ATE Emerging Scholar at the national meeting, allowing her additional opportunities for collaboration with well-known researchers and mentors in the field of teacher education.

Dr. Gonzalez-Bravo is dedicated to strong teacher preparation and values the profession of teaching. Jill is willing to share what she knows through her teaching, consulting and presenting locally and nationally. She has served as a reviewer for conference proposals and is a member of the editorial review board of the state ATE-K journal, *The Advocate*. These acts of professional service speak to her dedication to disseminate valuable research regarding teacher preparation. Her dedication to the profession is also evident by her willingness to serve currently as president-elect of the Association of Teacher Educators in Kansas. Providing leadership for ATE-K will allow her additional opportunities to work closely with the Kansas State Department of Education and other institutions as an advocate for high quality teacher preparation. It is a critical time for education in our state and a strong, clear voice for high quality teacher preparation is needed. As ATE-K president, Jill will work with others to meet the challenges of assuring each student in the state of Kansas and beyond has a well-qualified, compassionate and dedicated teacher in his/her classroom

As this letter notes, **Dr. Jill Gonzalez-Bravo** is a strong communicator, a great collaborator and is dedicated to the profession of teaching. In addition, I have always admired her outstanding work ethic and consider her a trusted professional who is committed to her faith, her family and her work. I believe she has the skill set and character to be a model for our future teachers and I provide my full support for her as she continues to work toward achieving her professional goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Yours in Education,



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