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Re: Letter of Reference for Ms. Joelle White



11 May 2015

Dear Sir or Madam,

We write this letter of reference in support of Joelle White's application for a teaching position, as we had the pleasure of co-facilitating an International Practicum placement in Ecuador, South America during three weeks in March 2015. Joelle was one of the fifteen teacher candidates that took part in this international teaching experience. Our B.Ed. candidates undertook to teach students at a K-12 school (*Unidad Educativa Jaime Roldos Aguilera*) located within the small rural village (200 families) of San Miguel in Chimborazo province high up in the Andes mountains, and which had been recently expanded (and continues to grow) with the assistance of the *Free the Children* and *Me-To-We* organizations. Nipissing University teacher candidates have successfully been taking part in these International Practicum experiences in Ecuador for the past number of years. The San Miguel School used a Spanish national curriculum, which also included English language instruction and related textbooks. Joelle, along with her co-teaching partner, was responsible for teaching English language studies (which was actually a third language for most students, in addition to their native Kichwa, and Spanish) to highschool students (Gr. 11/12) throughout the three weeks of classes while we were in Ecuador. We took the opportunity to visit all of our teachers' classes on a regular rotation schedule, and as such were able to observe Joelle and her partner deliver and/or facilitate various English language lessons throughout this time, while providing feedback to them during evening planning sessions.

Joelle is to be commended for her ability to creatively co-plan with her assigned partner; to deliver clear, enthusiastic lessons to students; to accept constructive feedback from the facilitators and hence reassess strategies where appropriate; and, to take the changes in climate, altitude, and culture easily in stride during the international placement. Her input into the larger group discussions was always meaningful, and her positive disposition added to the sense of community that was fostered throughout our trip. In our opinion, Ms. White, with her combination of professionalism, patience, and enthusiasm, will make a very solid addition to any teaching staff.

Yours respectfully,

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Daniel Jarvis & Jeff Scott

