

20 January, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly recommend Ms. Jessica Durinsky for employment. Ms. Durinsky successfully completed her student teaching through the University of Akron in my class room at Highland High School. Ms. Jessica Durinsky had an extremely successful student teaching experience and was a true asset to the Highland learning community during the fall semester of 2010. Ms. Durinsky was extremely well prepared and organized for daily lessons. She handled daily, routine tasks with efficiency and attention to detail. She had very few discipline problems in the classroom because of the high expectations she established early on. When an issue arose Ms. Durinsky was quick to discuss matters with those involved and correct any behaviors that may have disrupted the learning environment. She also did an exceptional job of reinforcing positive behaviors.

Ms. Durinsky employed a variety of instructional strategies to promote student learning. She was very conscientious of lesson pacing, appropriate questioning and was vigilant in checking for student understanding of material. She created formative assessments and used the data she collected to evaluate and enhance student learning. Jessica also integrated technology into the curriculum very effectively and appealed to a variety of learning styles in each lesson. Ms. Durinsky differentiated instruction well to engage students at all ability levels. To compliment her instructional skills Jessica also had an exceptional understanding of the state content standards for social studies and did an outstanding job of "unwrapping" the standards in her daily lessons.

Ms. Durinsky related extremely well with the staff and made an exceptional effort to make herself active in the professional learning community. Jessica participated in activities such as staff and department meetings, textbook adoption, and creation of common assessment for 9th grade modern world history. Also, Jessica related well with the students made efforts to familiarize herself with student background knowledge and experiences. Jessica created a strong rapport with the student that allowed her to establish a consistent and fair learning environment. I am very proud to recommend Ms Jessica Durinsky for employment in your school district.

Ms. Durinsky's level of professionalism was exceptional. Jessica made use of all resources available and was observed by multiple administrators and received productive feedback on those observations. She did extremely well to implement recommendations from colleagues and administration into her pedagogy. These qualities will make Ms. Jessica Durinsky a true asset to a school community in the near future.

Sincerely,

Adam Cestaro
Social Studies Teacher
Highland Local School District