

To Whom It May Concern:

Keegan Long is currently a teacher candidate in the Secondary Social Sciences program in the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He will complete the program with a Bachelor of Science in Education in May 2020. Keegan is a thoughtful, creative, and motivated teacher who has demonstrated great potential under my direct supervision as program leader. As program leader I have witnessed first-hand Keegan's development and ability to design and lead meaningful instruction while cultivating a rich learning atmosphere for all students based on mutual respect and relationship-building with students. In his practicum placement this fall, Keegan was incredibly successful at Lincoln East High School – his cooperating teacher at Lincoln East consistently voiced her appreciation for Keegan's work ethic and caring disposition toward students. In her final evaluation of Keegan's work at Lincoln East, she indicated high "sufficient" marks for all categories of his teaching including relationship building with students and added: "I enjoyed working with Keegan and feel he will be a great teacher." As program leader I can attest to this observation regarding Keegan's potential and add that his work ethic and caring disposition, both within my methods class and in schools, is readily recognized and admired by those around him. Having said this, Keegan is already off to a great start at Elkhorn High School in Omaha as a student teacher, where in addition to teaching U.S. history to 11th graders, he is also teaching a course new to the district that focuses on current social and political problems and their relationship to historical events both in the US and larger world.

Having had the opportunity to work with Keegan for more than one year, as program leader and methods professor, I have seen Keegan's teaching and attention to planning engaging lessons truly blossom. As part of my fall methods class, students create a capstone project that consists of a unit plan that includes substantial attention to areas including: planning, assessment (both formative and summative), inquiry-based learning activities and instruction, transitions, modifications for diverse learners, anticipatory sets and closers, and objectives that are aligned with state and national standards. Keegan received an A+ on this project. The attention to detail

in his unit plan was impressive. I admire Keegan's dedication to his craft and commitment to making social studies lessons engaging and accessible for students.

As a result of Keegan's program and training he has developed a solid instructional design foundation in terms of planning, implementing and assessing his instruction. He is very familiar with effective design models for instruction and differentiation including *Understanding by Design* – but is also well versed in research-based strategies for engaging students in social studies content including the Social Studies Alive curriculum by TCI. Keegan is an exceptional colleague within my cohort of students who freely shares ideas and offers support to peers. Keegan is hard working, has high standards for himself, and his students and is always willing to seek out advice and feedback. He has a can-do attitude, embraces challenges, and has a wonderful presence in the classroom. I rate Keegan very highly. I believe he will be tremendously successful as a teacher. He will be an asset to your school division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Aaron Johnson, PhD.
Assistant Professor
Social Science Education
University of Nebraska-Lincoln