



HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

THE PRINCIPALS' CENTER

February 20, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Rebecca Vyduna for a school leadership position. I know Rebecca through her enrollment in the School Leadership Program: Principal Licensure Strand at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). This intensive one-year master's program helps aspiring principals to develop the skills needed to become effective school leaders. It includes rigorous coursework, field placements, project-based learning activities, case discussions, on-site school consultations, cohort activities, and a year-long internship.

Rebecca is an outstanding student. She is organized, well-prepared, and makes meaningful and reflective contributions to class discussions. Rebecca seeks out opportunities to study and learn, and with her weekly peer study group, she has developed a protocol to discuss and apply readings to her work at her internship site. This enables Rebecca and her team to apply theory to their practice.

She is very intelligent, articulate and dynamic. She demonstrates poise under pressure during group presentations and role-plays and has built solid relationships with her peers. She also has a great sense of humor and an ability to relate well to people of all types.

In addition to her full-time graduate studies, Rebecca is developing her skills and knowledge through a 400-hour principal internship. She has the advantage of working with experienced principals in both urban and suburban schools. As a principal intern, Rebecca makes many positive contributions, leading monthly faculty meetings, engaging in work to support a professional learning community, and using data to drive instructional improvement. She is receiving excellent reviews for her resourcefulness, leadership, and communication skills.

Through her principal internship, Rebecca had the opportunity to work in a school with a large population of bilingual and English Language learners. She has shown that she is committed to improving educational opportunities for all students and wants to ensure that bilingual students and special needs students have access to the same rich curriculum as all other students. Prior to entering the School Leadership Program, Rebecca worked as a bilingual teacher both in Illinois and in Guatemala. To stay informed about immigration policies and changes, Rebecca is currently enrolled in a year-long immigration course at the Harvard Law School.

A good indicator of a leader's courage is her ability to take on difficult conversations. Many students and many school leaders shy away from these. Rebecca found herself in some situations that required her to either confront an issue or suffer the consequences of



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unresolved problems. Rebecca faced each situation with a wonderful combination of diplomacy and bravery. Each challenging situation had a constructive outcome and in every case Rebecca maintained positive relationships with her colleagues. This is a remarkable skill.

Rebecca is energetic, has great instincts, and is committed to excellence in all that she does. With her dedication and prior experience, Rebecca is poised to become an exemplary school leader. She is well prepared for the challenges of an administrative position, and will meet all of the professional requirements for principal licensure in Massachusetts by June.

As a Zone Superintendent in the Boston Public Schools and as former Superintendent of Schools in Milton, Massachusetts, I have had the privilege of hiring dozens of school principals over the past 15 years. I would do my best to recruit Rebecca for my team if I were filling a school leadership role.

I wholeheartedly recommend her for the position she seeks.

Sincerely,

Mary Grassa O'Neill
Director