



February 19, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: **Anne Neumann**

I am pleased to be able to write a letter of recommendation for Anne Neumann. I have known Anne for several years as she has taken classes that I have taught within this time. Upon graduation in May 2017, Anne will be qualified to teach in a wide range of settings. With an elementary teaching certificate, she will be eligible to teach in general education classes, K-5. Her endorsement in Learning Disabilities will allow her to further teach in special education settings along the continuum of services in grades K-12.

I first met Anne as a student in my "Introduction to Learning Disabilities" course. Although on the quiet side at times, she was attentive and eager to learn the content. She put forth good effort in this and subsequent classes and worked to master the content in each one. In her program at Hope, Anne has "grown into the profession" by tackling the academic and professional challenges of her program head on. As a result, she has learned much about herself personally and professionally. Throughout her coursework, her desire to learn and teach students with disabilities has been unwavering.

The Teacher Education Program at Hope College is unique in its approach to the field experience component. In each course in the general education sequence and most in the special education major, Anne has had the opportunity to participate in placements in a variety of settings, ranging in age, diversity and socioeconomic status. Her placements have included opportunities from early elementary to the high school level, in a wide variety of school districts and school settings. Although Anne had a variety of placements in local schools, perhaps her most unique experience was in Liverpool, England where she was placed in a primary school. With each experience, Anne was required to examine the link between theories that were introduced in her course work to that of the "real life" classroom setting. As she moved through these placements, completing over 230 clinical hours prior to student teaching, the mentor teachers commented on her willingness to pitch in when needed and the positive relationships she was able to develop with students. Currently in her second student teaching placement, she has demonstrated positive capabilities in both general and special education classrooms.

Anne has balanced her education at Hope with a variety of relevant work and volunteer opportunities. She has repeatedly chosen experiences that have enhanced her knowledge of children and youth and also served to build her leadership skills. Anne has also actively participated in a range of campus activities that have further developed her abilities to lead and direct others.

Anne has developed into a fine, confident and competent beginning teacher; I feel fortunate to have had the chance to be a part of her time at Hope. She is a positive, caring, flexible young woman who is eager to "stretch" her limits while being readily able to form positive relationships with peers and superiors alike. I am most pleased to recommend her as she prepares to move into the field and look forward to hearing positive feedback as she progresses through her career.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Cook
Director of Student Teaching
Professor of Education