



March 14, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer the following insights regarding Anne Neumann, a Hope College student whom I have known since the fall of 2013. Anne is a remarkable person who exudes positivity and professionalism and I know she is equipped to be successful in the teaching profession.

I first met Anne through her participation in the college's Phelps Scholars Program, a voluntary living and learning experience for first year students who share an interest in issues of race and culture. Students from diverse backgrounds make a one year commitment to intentionally practice building community across differences. This occurs through living in the same residence hall, enrolling in a common course each semester and by attending cultural field trips, meetings and optional activities. She was also a student in my First Year Seminar and we have maintained regular contact since that time.

Anne possesses many professional dispositions which will be helpful both in the classroom and in a school setting. She is responsible, mature, respectful, confident, and fair; her deep personal integrity is admirable. Evidence of these qualities was especially notable during a very thorough junior year presentation she gave on what she learned in her special education courses and placement. She communicated clearly and confidently about her experiences and drew direct application to her role as a future educator.

Anne is also skilled in connecting with people from diverse backgrounds. Because of this, we have called upon her to assist with various program recruitment efforts. I have enjoyed observing the way in which she engages with others and can confirm she is well respected. Her nonjudgmental way of meeting people where they are at will enable her to build effective and meaningful relationships with students, parents and colleagues.

Anne's energy and zest for life make her a joy to be around and I know that she will contribute greatly to your school district: she receives my highest recommendation! If additional insight would be beneficial, please contact me at vega@hope.edu or at (616) 395-7026.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Vega

Director, Phelps Scholars Program

Assistant Professor, Education