

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure and confidence that I support the application of Mary Farnsworth for a position as a secondary education History teacher. Mary was a student in my undergraduate ED 370: Teaching in Inclusive Middle and High School Classrooms in the Spring of 2011 and continued to do an independent study/practicum with the same student whom she tutored during the fall of 2011. It is from these experiences and many conversations with her that I offer this letter of support.

Mary is an articulate, bright young woman who has a strong academic background. She is well prepared for the rigors of the classroom. She is deeply committed to being an excellent History teacher. She was always on top of her work and ready to contribute in a thoughtful manner. Her interest in history led her to initiate a student research project during the summer of 2011 that was fascinating.

In addition to the traditional classroom meeting time associated with a college course, ED 370 has a field placement twice per week for 75 minutes each. Mary was paired with a high school student who experiences severe and multiple disabilities and is non-verbal. Mary was responsible to design, implement and evaluate instruction on a weekly basis that would support the student in achieving her IEP goals with an explicit focus on embedding communication. Mary was amazing! She began by developing a strong relationship with the student and quickly progressed to providing rich, interesting and age appropriate curriculum content. I was more than pleased with Mary's preparation and implementation of instruction. As a teacher, Mary is sensitive, relates well to students and holds high standards. What is remarkable about her style is that she was able to communicate these high standards with a sense of confidence in the student and without speaking down to the student. Mary always maintained a high level of respect and regard for her students.

Mary also had consistent opportunities to engage in collaborative planning and teaching with another History major. She demonstrated strong collaborative skills including openness, ongoing communication, shared decision making, and

responsibility for follow through. Mary will bring strong content knowledge, energy, curiosity, and commitment to a teaching team. She is a strong team player.

I believe that Mary Farnsworth is ready to enter the field of education. She is a wonderful young woman with the necessary skills to be a fine teacher. I am certain that she would be a strong asset to your faculty. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at mdoyle@smcvt.edu or 802 654 2279.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Doyle, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Education
Department Chair