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To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Kelly Geigner since the fall of 2003 when she was placed in my 6th grade classroom as a participant in the Illinois State University/Pekin District #108 Professional Development School. Through this innovative program Mrs. Geigner displayed knowledge and experience in planning and preparation, classroom management, instruction, and professional responsibilities throughout the school year.

Mrs. Geigner demonstrated a thorough understanding of professional standards, concepts, and content. Her detailed preparation, use of a wide variety of resources and quality tools, connections across the curriculum, and authentic assessment illustrated her mastery of the strategies and skills necessary to be a successful teacher. Her innovative, standards-based lessons were amazing! Mrs. Geigner was asked to share many of these lessons with veteran teachers. While in my classroom Mrs. Geigner planned and implemented a Greek festival including: writing original poems, creating an art piece, reading and absorbing non-fiction text, and preparing a Greek feast. She also produced and directed a series of one act plays that were performed in the auditorium for parents and other classes. Through these activities we witnessed hidden talents, a new sense of commitment to school for many students, and experiences/talents students would develop and remember for years to come. I knew at the time that one day she would be a teacher of teachers!

Mrs. Geigner's superior organizational skills were reflected in her maintenance of records, online grade book, prompt feedback to students, detailed lesson plans, and orderly work environment. Her creative use of large chart paper and colorful markers to communicate lessons, display messages, and incorporate quality tools never failed to engage students. Mrs. Geigner was reflective in her teaching and responsive to student and mentor feedback.

Mrs. Geigner and I have kept in touch since she took a position in the Florida schools in the fall of 2004. I was able to follow her progress in her new classroom through her classroom Web page where she continued to develop engaging, creative, lessons that were based on best practices. I was very pleased and supportive when she accepted a position in our district in the fall of 2009. She has a passion for teaching and an amazing ability to reach even the most reluctant students.

I would, without reservation, highly recommend Mrs. Geigner for a teaching/training position in our district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Madeleine Decker".

Mrs. Madeleine Decker