

May 7, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

It is a pleasure to write this letter of reference for Kalyn Hale. As a faculty facilitator for the Nipissing University international practicum, I spent three weeks with Kalyn in Kenya. As a mentor for the group, I had the opportunity to observe Kalyn teach, plan, and become a valuable member of this unique professional learning community. During our time in Kenya, Kalyn consistently demonstrated exceptional professional, interpersonal, and intellectual qualities of a reflective educator.

Kalyn's commitment to students and student learning were clearly evident in all her tasks as a pre-service teacher in an African classroom. Teaching in Kenya presented unique challenges (i.e., ELL, lack of resources, technology, and cross-cultural differences). Kalyn embraced these challenges with enthusiasm and applied her understanding of differentiated instruction and student development. As a result, she was able to motivate and keep students on task with challenging and interesting activities. Kalyn used a range of assessment and evaluation strategies to improve her students learning. During the three weeks of teaching in extreme conditions, I witnessed Kalyn's commitment to her professional development and her collaborative spirit. She continually looked for opportunities to learn more about teaching English Language Learners and enhancing her instructional repertoire to further develop her students' achievement. For example, she organized a peer teaching opportunity between her grade three class and a grade seven class. Working with the associate teachers in Kenya and her pre-service teacher partners, she organized peer learning sessions in math and language. The associate teacher had never witnessed such a strategy and acknowledged that he would use this teaching and learning strategy in future lessons. Kalyn's classroom was alive with laughter and learning.

In a true esprit de corps, Kalyn solved problems that arose in her Kenya classroom. She demonstrates all the necessary skills of an exemplary teacher. She is collaborative, energetic, enthusiastic, empathetic, and organized in her planning. She will be an asset to any staff. I welcome the opportunity to talk to you about Kalyn's ability to positively contribute to your school community. I hope that you will consider her for employment.

Best regards,



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