

October 26, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Leadership High School is a small, public charter school that serves the diverse students of San Francisco. In her two and a half months at Leadership High School, Rachel Derusha demonstrated effective teaching, a commitment to equity and the ability to develop caring relationships with young people. As the Principal, I have served as Ms. Derusha's supervisor, coached her curriculum and classroom management and built a positive collegial relationship with her.

Ms. Derusha prepared lessons for her students this year in three different classes, Beginning Spanish I/II and Intermediate Spanish. The lessons were rooted in state standards and address multiple intelligences. She adjusted the pace of her classes to meet the needs of students. In a heterogeneous classroom, she was strategic in meeting the needs of their students with IEPs, while providing rigorous college prep curriculum to all students, so that they are ready for a four year college education. Ms. Derusha shows an excitement for the Spanish language and for quality education that encourages her students to stay focused even when they are challenged. Ms. Derusha communicated student progress often to students and parents, so that her students could seek extra support when needed to meet the outcomes of the class.

Ms. Derusha took the role of Advisor seriously and showed deep care for her students' success. She held family meetings with each family as part of our commitment to know each student well. She made frequent phone calls home and met with students about their progress. Even when she was challenged to make the connection with the student, she was persistent in her advocacy.

Ms. Derusha was a true professional in her short, but impactful first quarter. She sought out and used feedback from her coach, supervisor and colleagues. Ms. Derusha is a committed educator, who will adapt and flourish in a middle or high school.

Sincerely,



Beth Silbergeld
Principal