

March 17, 2019

Dear Prospective Employer:

I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation for Ms. Andrea Kuchta. I met Andrea last fall. Andrea was the recipient of a scholarship in my college. The donors who provided Andrea's scholarship were interested in meeting her. They asked that my office arrange a time and place to meet. Andrea arrived early, was dressed professionally, and had already written the donors a lovely thank you note. For reasons beyond their control, the donors were quite late – leaving Andrea in the uncomfortable position of sitting in my office for an extended period of time. Having never met her before, I started asking questions about Andrea's background, her experiences in our program, and her long-term goals. Over 45 minutes later, the donors arrived and they went on their way. Later that evening, I had an email from the donors that captured my impression of Andrea perfectly, "She is fabulous!"

Andrea is friendly, articulate, bright, and outgoing. As noted in her resume, she has had extensive experiences in a wide variety of settings, many of them in schools and settings that serve students living in poverty. During my discussion with Andrea, she expressed her strong commitment to a strengths-based model that helps all learners realize their fullest potential. Many of our teacher candidates are young, and sometimes idealistic. Andrea conveyed all of the passion that I love to see in our students, but also spoke knowledgeably and confidently about how she would make a difference for her students. In my experience, these qualities provide a strong foundation for a successful and long career in teaching.

I have been in education over 30 years and have worked with hundreds of beginning teachers. While I am proud of virtually all of our graduates, each year I encounter a few that make an especially strong impression on me. I consider Andrea Kuchta to be a member of this group. I have two children of my own and often find myself asking how I would feel about one of our graduates serving as my child's teacher. This question forces me to consider not only if the new teacher is competent in the content or friendly with the students but to focus on whether or not this person will be the kind of teacher who can change a student's life. Andrea will be that kind of teacher, for every kid and on every day. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions (dshinew@bgsu.edu).

Sincerely,



Dawn M. Shinew,
Dean and Professor
College of Education and Human Development