



March 21, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to recommend Ariel Beverly as an art resource teacher in your school. I have known Ms. Beverly since spring 2015. She has been a member of my Art 211: Media, Techniques and Inquiries for Secondary Schools class, my Art 309 Professional Art Education Sequence classes, my Art 307 Art for Diverse Populations class, and my Art 351.27 Art Education in Australia summer study abroad class. I also supervised Ms. Beverly in her student teaching placements at Central Catholic High School and at Evans Middle School in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois. Ms. Beverly is a very competent, responsible, and resourceful teacher. She successfully completed her requirements for licensure while scoring well above university, state, and national visual arts averages on the edTPA exam, which is based on the Danielson Framework of excellence in teaching.

I was greatly impressed with the "Symbolism Through Portraiture" unit plan that Ms. Beverly taught to Central Catholic High School students. Students analyzed the work of historical and contemporary portraitists to interpret the styles, symbolism, and meanings found within the images. Students each researched and wrote about a historical portrait artist as well as about a contemporary one and interpreted their work for style and concept; they compared and contrasted the two artists to gain further understanding of the process of portrait creation and the research necessary for the creation of an impressive and meaningful image. Students then interviewed each other and recorded personality traits and interests before their drawing portraits. The lesson was both rigorous and informative. Ms. Ariel devised several formative, scaffolded steps in which she provided feedback and student choice to monitor student learning, conceptual understanding, and vocabulary use. The plan was student-centered and included both writing and discussion that enhanced skill-based activities. Ms. Beverly's other units, both on the high school and middle school level, were equally well planned and developmentally appropriate.

Ms. Beverly was an excellent student and is an accomplished artist who won awards for her ceramic sculpture. She has a quiet command of the classroom, and students respect her as a teacher and as an artist. She is very responsible and has a work ethic that her colleagues appreciate. Her student teaching cooperating teachers in both high school and elementary placements spoke highly of her.

I also watched Ms. Beverly teach stop-motion animation to fifth and sixth grade elementary students and imaginary creatures to first grade students during the Art Education Area's fall Saturday classes. Her lessons were well planned and organized, and she taught them with a nice mastery of classroom discipline, even when students with emotional challenges were a part of her class. Ms. Beverly challenged her students to think on a higher level.

Ms. Beverly would be a welcomed addition to any school. She is a team player, is proactive, and goes beyond expectations to create an exciting learning environment. I can be reached via email at [jabrigg@ilstu.edu](mailto:jabrigg@ilstu.edu) or via cell phone at 309-531-3776 for further comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Briggs".

Judith Briggs, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Art Education