

Bert Corona

Charter School

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dr. Angelique Jacques-Marcoulis and I am the Director of Instruction for Bert Corona Charter School. It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Brett Drugge. As Mr. Drugge's director of instruction, I have had the ability to directly observe his teaching practices. Mr. Drugge is committed to promoting classrooms which are healthy affectively, challenging cognitively, and promote social justice and empathetic citizenship.

An example of Mr. Drugge's commitment to classrooms which are healthy affectively and challenging cognitively, is a lesson he developed using The Bottom of Heaven, a collection of poems by teenagers in juvenile center in Washington State. After reading several stanzas from one selection, Mr. Drugge instructed on the distinctions between concrete and abstract thinking. He continued to read and ask students their thoughts. Suddenly, students began making "text-to-self" connections. Students began sharing stories about friends and family who had unfortunately been incarcerated. Mr. Drugge empathetically facilitated this sharing such that shame free sharing occurred. Additionally, Mr. Drugge's facilitation promoted higher-order- analytical thinking as students connected the words of these poems to their own life experiences.

Another example of Mr. Drugge's teaching strengths is his continual commitment to promoting social justice and empathetic citizenship. Each day he invariably connected his weekly standard themes with front page newspaper articles which showed various perspectives of social justice. His goals were two-fold. He desired to reinforce real-world-connections while teaching the standards and reinforcing that a good citizen is a critical thinking person who connects present and past historical events in order to make informed decisions regarding matters of public citizenry.

Additionally, Mr. Drugge sought to promote empathetic citizenry. This is best illustrated by his awarding one of his students with our school's first "altruism ward". All of Mr. Drugge's students were required to have a note-taking portfolio for his class. One of his students announced that he could not afford to buy a notebook (Note: this student's honesty is another example of Mr. Drugge's promotion of a healthy affective domain.). The following day, another student brought this needy student a portfolio. For this student's act of empathy and selflessness, Mr. Drugge recognized this student at our school's award assembly by awarding him with an "Altruism Award".

While I could share many more examples of Mr. Drugge's talents, one final point that needs to be shared regarding Mr. Drugge. Mr. Drugge accepted a position with our charter school without a one year contract guarantee. While our enrollment compelled us not to continue his employment, his passion for teaching in an environment committed to creative teaching practices and diversity is why he accepted employment with our organization. For these reasons, as well as those aforementioned, I strongly recommend Brett Drugge to your educational community. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the above number or on my cell, 818/448-3564.

Sincerely,

Angelique Jacques-Marcoulis
Director of Instruction