



Linden Department of Special Education
7201 West Silver Lake Road, Linden MI 48451
Janet L. Fisher, Ed.D., Director
Kathy Rice, Secretary

PH: (810) 591-0405 FAX: (810) 591-8113
jfisher@admin.linden.k12.mi.us

June 28, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

This is a letter of recommendation for Jessica Dean. As Director of Special Education in Linden Community Schools, I have had the pleasure of working with Jessica for the past two years. During that time, Jessica has served as the teacher of our Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed program. In that capacity, she supervised three paraprofessionals and worked with a variety of children with eligibilities including: autism spectrum disorder, cognitive impairments, speech/language impairments, hearing and visual impairments and developmental delays. She has been open to program and curricular suggestions and is always willing to consider new interventions that will increase student achievement. As one example, Jessica received training in the *Creative Curriculum* and followed through on using the program with all students in her classroom.

Jessica is good at organizing centers and a variety of activities that benefit student learning. She is always conscientious of budgetary limitations and operates within those constraints. She is also adept at directing her paraprofessionals to maximize their time and effort to assist the students.

As a team player, Jessica works hard to develop relationships with other teachers and ancillary staff including the speech therapist, occupational therapist, autism consultant, physical therapist, school social worker, district teacher consultant, adaptive physical education teacher, etc. She has a positive attitude and perseveres until the job is completed. Other staff appreciate her and enjoy working with her.

I can always depend on Jessica to work effectively with parents. She makes herself available and establishes strong relationships with her parents. On several occasions, I observed her chairing IEP's and she shared all of the necessary information so parents could make informed decisions about their child's placement in Linden's ECDD program.

Jessica shows genuine concern for her students. She knows each of them very well and determines how to help them progress to the next level of achievement. She individualizes instruction and meets each child at their optimum level of learning.

Jessica has the experience, knowledge and education to be an asset to any program for which she is qualified. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call my cell at: 810-869-5871.

Sincerely,

Janet L. Fisher, Ed.D.
Director of Special Education
Linden Community Schools

6/29/2008

To whom it may concern,

Please consider this a letter of reference and/or recommendation for Jessica Dean. I had the privilege of working with Jessica for two terms, as she became dual certified in special education.

Jessica displayed extensive content knowledge and genuine enthusiasm for the content and students she was working with. She worked with preschool students that were at risk and had various disabilities. She also had the responsibility of coordinating paraprofessionals to assist in the classroom. Her assistants were well prepared and always seemed on task, which is a tribute to Jessica's organizational and leadership skills.

Jessica ran a very organized classroom. Her students were always productively engaged. She made pacing consistent throughout and transitions occur smoothly with little loss of instruction time. She is a very active teacher that gets down on the floor with her students while presenting various tasks. She interacted with students in a friendly manner and demonstrated genuine caring, warmth and respect for individual students. Her classroom was well equipped and also organized.

Jessica is very articulate and expressive in both spoken and written language. Jessica continually demonstrates responsibility in punctuality and promptness in completing assignments. As a former public school principal and Director of Special Education, I would have felt honored to have Jessica Dean on my staff. I feel she is a true asset to our profession.

If I can be of further assistance in Jessica's educational future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert DeBoer, SVSU Field Supervisor for Special Education
989-673-2415
edeboer@centurytel.net

July, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to Jessica Dean, special education teacher. I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Dean for the past three school years in an Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed classroom. Mrs. Dean has proven to be well-organized and conscientious. Additionally, she appeared to individualize her classroom to the varied needs of each of her special education students. She demonstrated the ability to effectively communicate with her paraprofessionals, as well as other ancillary staff with whom she worked.

As an occupational therapist who worked in her classroom on a weekly basis, I found Mrs. Dean to be open to suggestions. She readily incorporated activities and accommodations which were demonstrated; and, she was integral in the daily follow through of suggested ideas/programs.

These qualities, I believe, would prove beneficial with continued work in Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed classrooms, as well as a variety of other special education classrooms. I would recommend Jessica Dean as a special education teacher.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Hardimon, OTR
Genesee Intermediate School District



Francis Reh

ACADEMY

"Reading is the KEY to knowledge"

2201 Owen Street • Saginaw, MI 48601
Tel: 517.753.2349 • Fax: 517.753.1819

February 22, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Jessica Dean is a conscientious professional who is committed to student learning. She is excited about teaching and learning and translates this excitement into the classroom as she teaches and learns with her students. Jessica is also reflective about her teaching and focuses that reflection on ways to improve student learning.

In teaching, Jessica develops ways to engage her students in the lessons and promotes active participation by all students. She is well organized, determined and goal-directed. Jessica's presentation is always energetic: she is confident, prepared, and interested in the subject matter and in the students. She utilizes differentiated instruction techniques effectively in our K-8 school ensuring the success of all students.

Jessica brings many skills to her profession and is capable and thoughtful when taking on the challenges of teaching. She develops and maintains strong positive relationships not only with the students, but with members of the staff as well. Jessica will be an asset to any school program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kellie Kanicki". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Kellie Kanicki
4th Grade Teacher
Francis Reh Public School Academy

**SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
FACULTY/PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR RECOMMENDATION**

GRADUATE

Name: JESSICA DEAN SS# 368-04-7487

Program: Special Education - Learning & Behavioral disorders

This candidate has applied for admission to the graduate program of the SVSU College of Education. The purpose of this recommendation is to provide information regarding the communication skills and personal characteristics of the candidate. The faculty recommendation will remain confidential and will be used as part of the portfolio to assess a candidate's eligibility for admission. Your cooperation in providing this information is appreciated.

| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| COMMUNICATION SKILLS | | | | | |
| Oral Expression | ✓ | | | | |
| Written Expression | ✓ | | | | |
| Listening Skills | ✓ | | | | |
| PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES | | | | | |
| Interpersonal Skills | ✓ | | | | |
| Initiative | ✓ | | | | |
| Cooperation/Collegiality | ✓ | | | | |
| Dependability | ✓ | | | | |
| Professionalism | ✓ | | | | |
| Tolerance/Openness (Cultural Diversity) | ✓ | | | | |

- 5 = outstanding
- 4 = above average
- 3 = acceptable
- 2 = unacceptable
- 1 = unknown

In addition, please elaborate on any characteristics that would assist the SVSU College of Education in making a decision about this candidate's potential for graduate study.

Jessica Dean would be an excellent candidate for the special education program at SVSU. Jessica has shown thoroughness and high quality work in the projects and programs she has been involved in as a computer teacher.

She involves her students in a multitude of learning activities and tries to meet the needs of all of her students.

Jessica conducts herself as a professional teacher in the classroom and with her colleagues. As a professional she seeks self-improvement in her teaching strategies and instructional relevancy.

I recommend that JESSICA DEAN be admitted to a graduate program in the SVSU College of Education.

I do not recommend that _____ be admitted to a graduate program in the SVSU College of Education.

Signature: Janice Dietzel

Date: January 17, 2005

Title: Curriculum Coordinator - Francis Beh Public School Cadon

RETURN TO:

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
7400 BAY ROAD
UNIVERSITY CENTER, MI 48710



January 5, 2002

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Jessica Knowles. She has been employed with LensCrafters since May of 1998. Jessica passed the American Board of Opticianry Competency Examination with an above standard score and is currently working as an ABO Certified Optician. Her main duties as an optician includes reading prescriptions, analyzing and determining customer's needs, satisfying them with correct lens options and frame styles. She is also responsible for final inspection of completed eye wear and assisting in the dispensing of eye wear. She has been very diligent in her training and continues to be eager to learn. The Quality, Fitting and Adjusting Program is a required training program for all associates. Jessica has successfully completed this program and assists in the training of new frame stylist and apprentice opticians.

Jessica has excellent communication skills and her rapport with customers is commendable. In difficult situations, she will seek assistance to make sure she finds the solutions that will best suit and satisfy the customer's needs. She is well liked and respected by fellow co-workers and has proven herself as a true team player. She is punctual and is willing to come in early, stay late, or adjust her schedule to accommodate the fluctuations of heavy traffic. We are a high volume store and I have received many compliments from customers for her ability to serve them professionally. Jessica is a recipient of a President Pin Award for her excellent level of customer service. She is very approachable, knowledgeable and friendly. She follows up with her customers to make sure they are satisfied. Jessica is an exceptional employee and an asset to LensCrafters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathie VanOast".

Cathie VanOast
General Manager



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT
School of Education and Human Services

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
430 DAVID M. FRENCH HALL
FLINT, MICHIGAN 48502-1950
TELEPHONE: (810) 762-3260
FAX: (810) 762-3102

The University of Michigan-Flint
Education Department
430 French Hall
Flint, Michigan 48502

December 3, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

Jessica Knowles student taught in an all-day kindergarten at North Road Elementary School in Fenton. She worked under the guidance of an enthusiastic supervising teacher, Trudy Iverson. I had opportunities to observe her teaching students and interacting with other professionals.

Jessica planned lessons appropriate in both developmental and curriculum considerations. She worked to include variety using both large and small group techniques, many learning centers, many books and interesting materials. Her concept teaching was appropriate and sequenced well and she paced so that all students were successful.

Jessica enjoys her students and communicates well with them. She gives clear directions and checks progress in each child's specific skills. She allows enough practice and uses information from these evaluations to individually help students. Jessica provides smooth transitions from one activity to another and builds in time and assistance for slower students.

Each day follows routines which Jessica practices with the children. These routines are based on sharing appropriately and establishing respect for others in the room. She creates a positive environment in which to meet the student needs and challenge the minds and creativity of the students.

Jessica is becoming more professional. She dresses, speaks, writes appropriately, and attends school professional development and extra-curricular activities. She is enthusiastic about teaching and about reaching her professional goals. I have no reservation about recommending Jessica for a teaching position.

Very truly yours,

Alice Anastor

University Coordinator
(810) 234-1518



Fenton Area Public Schools North Road Elementary School

525 North Road • Fenton, MI 48430-3112
(810) 591-1500 • FAX: (810) 591-1505

November 27, 2001

ADMINISTRATOR

Peter S. Vance, Ph.D.
Principal

To Whom it May Concern:

Jessica Knowles has been a wonderful addition to our North Road Staff. Jessica planned and carried out developmentally appropriate lessons. She seemed to especially enjoy "sharing time" and the use of good quality literature. She read often to the children and involved them in active questioning and discussion. She is aware of the differences in how children develop readiness for learning.

Jessica shared books and activities with us to enhance our weekly "Letter/Sound of the Week" program. She realizes the importance of keeping parents informed on a weekly/day to-day basis. She has learned to be flexible with scheduling activities. Jessica made learning relevant to the needs and interests of the young children she worked with.

Jessica is prepared academically. She used class time effectively while she promoted active participation and self-choices. She enjoyed involving the children in the process of making bulletin boards and decorating our hallways. Her classroom management was good. She demonstrated many teaching techniques throughout her lessons.

Jessica provided positive reinforcement, was easy-going, and sensitive to the needs of the students. She is a warmly supportive, calm, and capable person.

I have enjoyed working with Jessica and wish her many successful years in the field of education. Her love for teaching and for young people will make her an asset to the teaching profession. I recommend her for an elementary teaching position. Jessica had a good student teaching experience and is ready to take the next step and receive a permanent teaching assignment. I wish her well.

Sincerely,

Trudy J. Iverson
North Rd. Elementary-Kindergarten
1-800-591-1528

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Andrew G. Schmidt
President

Lynn D. Hopper
Vice President

Pamela J. Coffin
Secretary

David A. Walker
Treasurer

Ann B. Ingles
Trustee

Eric R. Karsten
Trustee

Nora S. Kryza
Trustee