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To whom it may concern:

May 25, 2010

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ms. Jessica Bilello, who was a student teacher under my supervision at Wilson High School, West Lawn, PA, during the spring of 2010.

Jessica, I believe, brings many fine qualities to the teaching profession. She is personable, accepting of all students at their different levels of maturity, serious about the task before her, conscientious in her preparation for class, and consistently professional in meeting her many obligations as a student teacher.

While student teaching at Wilson High School, Jessica had the opportunity to learn and provide instruction in our College Preparatory English 12 classes. These classes are comprised of heterogeneously grouped students with a wide range of ability. Some students are capable of Advanced Placement work; some require various levels of support. This situation offered many opportunities for differentiated instruction and differentiated assessments as well as opportunities to experience the advantages of co-teaching in a classroom of diverse learners. Jessica quickly assumed the role of teaching in this environment, and the students received her enthusiastically.

During this assignment, Jessica had the opportunity to teach a variety of skills in a broad language arts curriculum. She prepared interesting and effective lessons for Victorian poetry, modern British essays and speeches, and romantic novels. In the area of grammar, she taught a unit on common usage problems and problems with modifiers. In all of these units, she used her technology skills to enhance instruction, both in her preparation for the lesson and in her presentation of the lesson. Likewise, she maintained the students' interest by using a variety of techniques such as direct instruction, small group research, small group discussion, and individual projects and presentations. One project that generated significant interest with the students involved incorporating student work into a video, which was then loaded with a sound track onto YouTube. Individual slides were mounted on the walls outside the classroom, generating constant interest from the rest of the student body for days.

I have been most impressed with Jessica's thoroughness of preparation, professional demeanor and appearance, ability quickly to learn the students' names and relate to them personally, and ability to work as a team member, not only with me, but also with my special education co-teacher and other faculty members. Consistently, Jessica has focused on the core skills of each lesson, aligned her work to the state standards, and developed strategies to achieve her goals.

I highly recommend Jessica to you as a professional who will continue to grow in the teaching profession and be an asset to any school district that hires her.

Sincerely,

Dr. Larry T. Nallo
English Instructor