



SCHOOL OF TEACHER EDUCATION
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April 13, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Karen Wilform for a teaching position. I worked with Karen as her University Supervisor for the Fall semester of student teaching at Lauderbach Elementary in the Chula Vista Elementary School District.

Karen has developed an excellent rapport with the students because of her kindness and patience. It is obvious she really cares about the students and wants to do whatever she can to support them and make them successful. She is extremely reflective and open to feedback.

I recently observed Karen teach a guided reading lesson. In this lesson, she patiently worked with the lowest group of students who needed the most support. Since the majority of her class is EL students, she included many effective EL engagement and comprehension strategies. She broke the lesson down into manageable chunks, having them read only a couple of pages at a time, then having them stop to discuss the text and locate the idioms. This helped to keep them from feeling overwhelmed. The students participated equally in the discussion. She encouraged their participation when she offered positive feedback for their efforts. She focused on teaching the academic vocabulary such as, "literal meaning", "figurative meaning", "prediction" and "idioms". She gave them speaking sentence frames to use to help support their linguistic learning. She modeled the skill effectively for them by choosing examples of idioms connected to their own lives.

In response to the change to virtual instruction, Karen has created daily read aloud videos and planned activities to accompany them, including foldable graphic organizers. She will continue to support her Guide Teacher in any way she can as they make the transition to distance learning.

Karen has acquired many of the tools and skills that are necessary to become an effective and positive classroom teacher. I believe she will be a wonderful addition to any school staff. If you have any further questions, I can be reached at lcorneyfarwell@sdsu.edu or (360)970-2028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Carney Farwell".

Lisa Carney Farwell
University Supervisor
College of Education
School of Teacher Education
San Diego State University

