

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Rene DaSilva to support her application for the graduate program in School of Education. I had the privilege of working with Ms. DaSilva as an assistant professor during this past spring 2006 semester. This was my second semester in SUNY at Cortland teaching EDU 375 – Teaching Elementary Social Studies Method. SUNY at Cortland is proud of its Early Childhood and Childhood programs, which play key roles in the whole state to train pre-service elementary teachers. Ms. DaSilva was a junior and majors in Childhood Education. In my course, she has exhibited an excellent understanding of social studies content knowledge and pedagogy, a high degree of motivation and enthusiasm, as well as an impressive commitment to the teaching profession. She expressed her determination on entering a master program as soon as she finishes her undergraduate education.

In my course, Ms. DaSilva made efforts to actively participate in discussions and other learning activities. She completed all of the course assignments with highest quality. Reviewing the final unit plan she developed, I noticed that she clearly and accurately specified the content, skills, and values she wants her students to learn in her unit entitled “Education and Political Rights in Civil Rights Movement.” She addressed the related New York State Learning Standards in social studies and wrote specific and detailed objectives for each of the lessons in this unit. Considering the different learning styles of her future students, Ms. DaSilva planned to approach different students using a variety of teaching strategies. Her unit plan is well written and scored 40, the total points assigned to this assignment.

As the semester went on, I came to know her more. During the class trip to Raquette Lake, she demonstrated high spirits of teamwork and professionalism. While her classmates were exhausted from the activities during the trip, she was always ready to go for the next event. Her reflections on the trip were insightful and thought-provoking. I also came to know that she was a student of the C.U.R.E. program on campus. I applaud efforts made to bring her to Cortland, a community where diversity should be appreciated. She has been the only African American student I have taught here in Cortland. Working with her in this course has been a learning experience for me. I believe other professors could speak for her achievements in other aspects. Working with her last semester helps me conclude that Ms. DaSilva is a responsible person and she attended classes like a professional teacher during the whole semester. Overall Ms. DaSilva has exhibited dispositions appropriate for a pre-service teacher and a future leader in her community. I sincerely recommend Ms. Rene DaSilva for your consideration. If you should need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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