



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST

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Department of Teacher Education
and Curriculum Studies

March 2, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been my pleasure to work with Jeremy Wickham this year. Currently Jeremy is a Clinical Teacher in the *180 Days in Springfield* master's degree program through the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I direct the *180 Days* project and am one of Jeremy's professors. I have found him to be hardworking, enterprising, responsive, and committed. Jeremy's scholarship, creativity, and leadership have made for an excellent academic performance in his graduate classes.

It is most unusual to discover such a natural teacher as is Jeremy. His professionalism, depth of knowledge, particularly about the teaching of history and geography, and his genuine delight in his students all make for an outstanding teacher whose students range from high achievers to some with significant needs. Jeremy infuses his subject with a wide range of innovative activities that served to stimulate students' interest in the past. His work in the talented and gifted classes has been rich and rewarding for all concerned. But Jeremy has more than talent. He has a rare ability to honor and celebrate all of his students while cultivating an atmosphere where high expectations are the norm.

As part of his participation in the life of the school, Jeremy developed a *180 Days* Legacy Project, a service learning initiative. He created a club called "The Weekly Update" that offers students a forum to discuss and interpret current events, learn how to contact elected representatives, report the news themselves, and meet professionals in the field. This opportunity was an outlet that students very much appreciated! Jeremy made sure that his *180 Days* experience reflected a genuine awareness of the whole school community, while tapping into his own extensive experience and making it meaningful for urban students.

Jeremy's credentials, his ingenuity and engaging manner with his students, as well as his dedication to the art of pedagogy, make for an extremely desirable candidate for a teaching position. I consider it my good fortune to have worked with Jeremy Wickham and I offer my highest recommendation to you concerning him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen D. Gagne".

Kathleen D. Gagne, Ed.D.
Project Director
180 Days in Springfield