

April 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Let this serve as recommendation for **Lindsay Rourke**. Her Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Sacred Heart University is expected May 2020, as is her Connecticut teacher certification in secondary history/social studies. Ms. Rourke also holds a bachelor's degree in history from Sacred Heart University. Her goal is to secure a secondary school teaching position in Connecticut.

I am a former social studies teacher and I currently serve as Professor of Education at Sacred Heart University. My professional field is in the comparative history of education, with interest in origins of mass schooling in the North America, Europe, and China, as well as educational privatization in North America and Europe. I hold a Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Educational Policy Studies. At Sacred Heart, I also focus on history/social studies education and serve as advisor to candidates in the history/social studies cohorts.

I have known Ms. Rourke since fall 2015, when she was a work-study student under the guidance of my administrative assistant when I served as Dean of the Farrington College of Education. While Ms. Rourke's work was not directly related to teaching, it is not to be discounted. I found her to have a fast turn-around on assigned tasks, and she was detail oriented and got along well with others in the office. More recently, Ms. Rourke completed social studies curriculum and methods courses with me. Currently she is wrapping up her student teaching seminar, also with me.

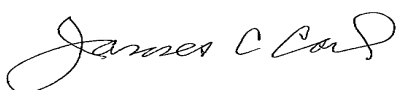
In my classes, Ms. Rourke proved to be an excellent student. She expresses herself clearly and persuasively, both verbally and in writing. Her contributions to class discussions are thoughtful, and her professional demeanor exudes enthusiasm for her students and peers, and for the history discipline. Her lessons are well-prepared, and she is especially interested in activities that engage students and deepen their understanding of social studies.

Ms. Rourke is a well-liked and well-respected graduate student, one whose prior experiences working with young people as a volunteer tutor at Bridgeport's Multicultural Magnet School and as a private tutor and childcare provider serve her in good standing. She is thoughtful and conscientious with her assigned work, and this semester she worked well with her cooperating teacher in the transition to online instruction due to coronavirus.

Don't let her petite and youthful appearance fool you: Ms. Rourke is more than capable in her interactions with middle school and high school students. She treats even the most challenging students with professionalism, calmness, and assertiveness.

Here is an excellent candidate for a teaching position in any Connecticut high school or middle school. Ms. Rourke will make a positive impact as a faculty member at your school, both in her classes, in the extracurriculars, and as a team player. I recommend her highly and without reservation.

Sincerely yours,



James C. Carl
Professor