



December 4, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

As the former Apprentice Teacher Training Program Director at New Canaan Country School, I had the pleasure of supervising Karina Olsen over the course of the last two years. As one of our most capable apprentices, Karina made a real impact in the community, in the 5th and 6th grade classrooms and on the athletic fields. In every instance, Karina performed above and beyond my expectations.

Karina's role as a Middle School apprentice teacher is perhaps the most instructive example of her potential. Karina worked extremely hard over the past two years to hone her craft of teaching. During this span, I saw Karina flourish and grow into a lead teacher who is confident, courageous, and ready to take on the demands of her own classroom. She arguably took on more responsibilities and initiatives than most. In class, she routinely was seen leading her class through an organized, structured, well-managed, and captivating lesson or unit. Beyond mastering math, social studies, and language arts curriculums, Karina exceedingly showed the ability to make authentic connections with kids and parents. In short, I recollect Karina's previous lead teacher commenting: "She can do it all!" I have every confidence in the world that Karina will be a great addition in the classroom at her next school. She has the motivation, work-ethic, skill, and personality to make a positive impact at her next school.

Karina's value was not limited to just the classroom. She is an accomplished collegiate athlete who was able to take her talents to our coaching ranks. While she coached multiple sports, her work on the basketball court was impressive. She was able to connect with our student-athletes, to teach them appropriate skills, and to make it fun, too. Her ability to contribute really doesn't have any boundaries.

I trust that Karina will make an excellent addition to any school. She has the "it" factor that those of us in a hiring position in schools often refer to. You should hire her before someone else does.

Sincerely,

Ryan Buckley

Head of Upper School

Tower School

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