Letter of Recommendation on behalf of Lena Garcia

Bozena Jaworowski, Ed.D.
Program Supervisor
Art Education Department
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
bjaworowski@umass.edu

Dear Hiring Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Lena Garcia for a position as a Visual Art Teacher. I had the privilege of mentoring Lena during her practicum experience while she was a student at UMass Amherst, and it was a joy to watch her grow into a confident and capable educator.

From the beginning, Lena demonstrated a warm and friendly demeanor that allowed her to quickly establish a positive rapport with students. She created a classroom environment that was both welcoming and inspiring—one where students felt safe to take creative risks, explore new ideas, and express themselves through art.

Lena's Professional Practice Goal was to foster a learning space where students develop as well-rounded, capable, and lifelong learners. She is genuinely enthusiastic about art and education, and she consistently modeled creativity by finding new and engaging ways to teach artistic concepts and techniques. Lena encouraged students to express their individuality and culture through their artwork, allowing them to connect their personal experiences to the creative process.

Throughout her practicum, Lena exhibited the essential qualities of an effective visual art teacher:

- Empathetic and supportive: She built strong relationships with students, understanding their challenges and helping them build confidence in their artistic abilities.
- Encouraging creativity: She inspired students to explore personal expression and step outside their comfort zones.
- Culturally responsive: Lena provided opportunities for students to celebrate and reflect their diverse backgrounds within their art.
- Reflective and growth-minded: She modeled the artistic process, showing students how to embrace challenges and learn from mistakes.
- Adaptable: She adjusted lessons to meet diverse learning styles and classroom dynamics.
- Organized and prepared: Her lessons were thoughtfully planned, engaging, and clearly communicated expectations.
- Professional and reliable: She managed the classroom effectively and maintained a positive, respectful atmosphere conducive to creative exploration.

Lena Garcia is a thoughtful, creative, and dedicated educator who has a natural ability to connect with students and ignite their passion for the arts. She values diversity, inclusivity, and

self-expression, creating an environment where every student feels seen and inspired. I am confident she will bring enthusiasm, professionalism, and innovation to any visual art program.

I give Lena my highest recommendation for a Visual Art Teacher position. She will undoubtedly be an asset to any school community fortunate enough to have her on staff.

Sincerely,

Bozena Jaworowski, Ed.D.

University of Massachusetts Amherst

College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Department of Art

December 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to provide this letter of recommendation for Lena Garcia's application as an art teacher in your district. It has been my great pleasure to have her as a student in my pre-practicum seminar and observe her as a student teacher this past fall at Hampshire Regional High School.

Lena has been incredibly successful at building trusting relationships with colleagues and students. She seamlessly became a part of the teaching faculty and has been an outstanding team member with her two supervising practitioners. Her instructional design and the exemplars she creates for students set the tone for the high expectations that she has for them. She is reliable and a strong member of any educational community she is in.

Lena is especially gifted in developing her students' artistic and creative abilities through her thoughtfully planned and well-designed lessons. I have witnessed her lesson planning throughout this past fall semester, and her choices have always been exceptionally responsive to the needs of her students. For instance, Lena carefully considered the level of skills of her current middle school students while holding them to high expectations and making learning through the arts a joyful experience. Her lesson plans assured success for all students.

Every lesson she creates is culturally responsive and imbued with anti-racist pedagogy. Equity and inclusion are essential to her instructional practice. She thoroughly outlines the steps throughout the lessons and checks with each student several times during class. Her assessments and rubrics allow for a variety of student responses and encourage critical thinking and analysis. Her carefully designed essential questions are always open-ended and thought-provoking.

With lots of teaching experience already, Lena's energy and passion will bring depth and breadth to your art program. I am confident that she will be an exceptional representative of the teaching profession in your district and a compelling advocate for your visual art program.

With utmost enthusiasm, I highly recommend Lena Garcia for your serious consideration as an art teacher in your district. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can further assist with her candidacy.

Most sincerely,

Julie Sawyer

Julie Sawyer, Ed.D.
Program Supervisor

Hampshire Regional High School

Lauren E. Hotz
Principal

Alexander W. Seid
Assistant Principal

Kara R. Sheridan
Assistant Principal

19 Stage Rd.
Westhampton, MA 01027

(413) 527-7680
Mon-Fri 7am-3:30pm

www.hrhs.net

April 29, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this recommendation in support of Mrs. Lena Garcia who has been a practicum student in my art classroom this semester at Hampshire Regional High School in Westhampton Massachusetts.

Ms. Garcia possesses a sound foundation in pedagogy. Lessons conducted by Lena are challenging and engaging for students. A broad repertoire of materials and processes are offered for student exploration. Lesson planning offers historical and socio/cultural reference for student inquiry. As well as being an outstanding educator Mrs. Garcia is an accomplished painter with knowledge and expertise that she conveys to all students. During her practicum Lena has taught a variety of courses at Hampshire Regional including Art 1, Graphic Design, Art 7, Art 8, Ceramics 2 and Wheelworking. Her inquisitive and thoughtful countenance augments how she presents each lesson. Her thoughtful reflections lead to lesson revisions when appropriate to continuously engage students with their artistic production.

Mrs. Garcia consistently demonstrates a calm, poised demeanor coupled with a caring and responsive attitude towards her students. Lena has the ability to involve all students in a given assignment. She tailors lessons to the needs of individual students as well as the class as a whole. During assignments Mrs. Garcia always interacts with each student assuring that all are given encouragement and assistance.

Lena Garcia is an educator with compassion for students coupled with high expectations for each individual. It has been such a privilege for me to work and learn from her this semester. I recommend her to you without reservation and hold her in the highest regard.

Sincerely,

Warren Smith
Art Teacher
Hampshire Regional High School
19 Stage Road
Westhampton, MA 01027
(413) 437-5662
wsmith@hr-k12.org