

Oxford Preparatory Academy - Chino Valley

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May 20, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Stacey Castro. I have served as Connor's mentor and co-worker throughout his years at Oxford Preparatory Academy. When he was initially hired at Oxford Prep in Fall of 2012, he was a 7th grade teacher alongside myself. We worked together that year and developed a friendly relationship based on effective collaboration. The following year I remained in 7th grade and Connor moved to a 5th grade position. During this year he approached me about the possibility of being his mentor through the BTSA process, I jumped at the chance. Being an experienced teacher and helping him along in his first year, I was excited at the chance to continue our collaboration in a structured setting.

I had become familiar with Connor's teaching style after working closely with him for a year and helping to mentor him. His energy was boundless and he was able to make up for much of his lack of experience and practice with this energy. During our year together as 7th grade cohorts, I had worked with Connor extensively on classroom management and expectations. This was an area he had identified as a trouble area and one that he did not feel entirely comfortable in. I was encouraged to see that even in the initial stages of his second year, he had taken these lessons to heart. Classroom rules, management, and expectations were an area he flourished from the beginning.

As we progressed through the second year, I could see his development and progression in his day-to-day teaching. He developed an understanding of the necessary supports for all students in the classroom. We worked extensively in this area to ensure that the techniques and strategies learned were making their way over to the actual practice in the classroom.

I had the opportunity to move to a 5th grade position for the '14-'15 year and was again able to work with Connor in a grade level team. His passion for his profession and his students is undeniable. He works tirelessly to put his students first and do what is best for children at all times. It was a pleasure to work with him and I highly recommend him to any teaching position.

Sincerely,

Stacey Castro