Morgridge College of Education
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

September 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the opportunity to observe Dr. Trisha Teig in her *LDRS 2040: Leading Community Change* course in the fall term and am writing this letter to share my observation of her teaching in support of her promotion.

It was very clear that this course is one in a series, as the relationships that the students had with one another had been fostered over time. I could only assume this is a direct result of the learning environment that Trisha had created prior to this class meeting. Students greeted one another eagerly; engaged in course discussion; and listened intently to guests while asking questions and seeking advice. While I was not able to observe the evolution of this learning environment where the community was established, the course I observed signified Trisha's dedication to facilitating a culturally responsive and culturally relevant space to learn.

The purpose of the course is to have students begin a year-long project with a community partner. Dr. Teig recognizes that developing such a partnership takes time and care. She has designed this course to prepare the students in identifying a community issue and preparing them to nurture the relationship with the partner to meet a community need. The class session I observed centered the importance of relationship as a form of capacity-building that will allow for the greatest impact for both the students and the communities they will partner with.

Dr. Teig did this by providing a clear agenda for the course meeting, but quickly adapted as needed to follow the conversation that students generated, while continuing to meet the goals and objectives of the session. She had students up and moving as they worked in small groups to engage with course material and was able to recognize when students were feeling anxious about the final project and confused about some of the details of the assignment. These strategies indicated that she is connected to student needs- they need an active learning environment and on occasion they needed clarification or affirmation and encouragement about their strengths.

Dr.Teig's style of instruction is that of a facilitator and a coach. With limited lecture and much time for discussion, she asked prompting questions that gave students room to think and participate in ways that seemed comfortable for the diverse student population.

It was a true pleasure to observe this course and learn from Dr. Teig as she facilitated conversation and activities that explained the purpose of the course and outlined the direction of the quarter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



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