



O *The University of* **OKLAHOMA**

College of Education

Department of Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum

January 27, 2009

Dear Graduate Studies Chair:

I am writing this letter as a recommendation for L. Alicia Monroe. I have known Alicia since 2006 in a number of capacities. She has been a student in several courses I taught at the University of Oklahoma, which she took as part of her teacher certification and Master's degree program of study. I oversaw Alicia's internship during the Spring of 2007, and I am currently serving as her thesis advisor. Based on these experiences, and on my knowledge of Alicia as a teacher and as a person, I can state without hesitation that she would be extremely successful in a doctoral program, and I encourage you to strongly consider her application.

I have always known Alicia to be an extremely motivated individual. The fact that she is looking to further her educational and professional horizons by entering a doctoral program is but one example of this. Alicia is very goal-oriented and organized, and I know that once she puts her mind to something, she will be able to do it, and do it well. During the classes she has taken with me, Alicia's work has always consistently been highest quality, and her desire to learn and gain something meaningful from the courses has been clearly evident. As a teacher, Alicia is motivated to improve not only herself, but also the learning environment for her students. Her students benefit every day from her work, because she will always reflect and adapt her lessons to fit their needs, and create meaningful and engaging lessons for them. That motivation to serve others will carry her very well at the next level of her education.

Motivation can carry a person only so far without knowledge and skills. Alicia is a smart woman, and highly capable in her field. She is constantly looking for answers to her own questions, as well as those from her students. Not only does Alicia possess a natural inquisitiveness, but she has the skills to follow up on her questions. Her previous

career as a journalist has prepared her well, and she knows how to ask questions that will get at the root of a problem or situation. During the action research class that she took concurrent with her internship, Alicia wrote an outstanding paper on the idea of caring in the English classroom. Her work was well-designed, and supported with ample literature from the field. That project has served as a pilot study for her Master's thesis. This ability to develop and carry out long-range research projects is strong evidence that Alicia will be able to design and complete an excellent dissertation study.

Finally, I think that Alicia is a person of the highest character possible. She is a kind, caring and generous person, who puts the needs of her students above her own. Her efforts and her time go into helping her students, and I think this comes from her genuine desire to help people. Given that Alicia is a working mother, I am constantly amazed at her ability to get things done, and done well, in situations where other people would almost certainly not. Whether Alicia wants to remain in her classroom after her doctorate is completed, or wishes to enter the field of teacher education, I know she will be a credit to the profession, and a role model for her students.

Alicia is an asset to her school and her students, and I know that she would be an asset to the ILAC doctoral program as well. She is capable of great things, and I hope she will have the opportunity to demonstrate that capability to you. If you have any questions, or if I can provide more information about Alicia's strong qualifications and abilities, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Mark Letcher

Mark Letcher
Assistant Professor of English Education
College of Education
University of Oklahoma
mletcher@ou.edu
405-325-0543 (office)