

MICHIGAN STATE
U N I V E R S I T Y

February 15, 2021

Dear Certification in College Teaching Requirements Committee:

I am writing to evaluate and provide support for Kelsey Earle's Mentored Teaching Project for graduate students. Kelsey completed her project in Spring 2020 under my direction for the course COM 225, Introduction to Interpersonal Communication.

Kelsey's project involved introducing an APA template for students' weekly assignments. To evaluate this template, she compared assignment grades from Fall 2019, her first semester as my TA, to grades in the Spring 2020 semester. Grades decreased; however, the Spring 2020 course involved an additional TA and instructor. Furthermore, the course was moved online halfway through the Spring 2020 semester in response to COVID-19. As such, making a direct comparison between semesters is difficult. The graduate teaching assistants did report greater ease in grading with the implementation of the new template.

I will next evaluate Kelsey's project using the provided mentored teaching rubric. With respect to the *teaching and learning goal*, *teaching question*, *classroom practice*, *summary*, and *conclusion*, the project is comprehensive. Regarding the assessment technique, the project is *developing*. Part of this rating may be explained by the unanticipated consequence of COVID-19 and the move to an online format. However, in future, if the project were to be repeated it would be helpful to gather some qualitative data from students to supplement the quantitative scores.



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In sum, I would like to provide strong support and a positive evaluation for Kelsey's mentored teaching project. Please feel free to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Holmstrom".

Amanda Holmstrom