

Christopher Wenz

456 Long Plain Road · Leverett, MA 01054

☎ 860 977 1674 | ✉ cawenz@gmail.com | 📱 chris_wenz | 🌐 chris-a-wenz

Pearson Assessments VUE

April 29, 2021

300 VENTURE WAY
HADLEY, MA 01035

Candidate for Test Content Developer Position ELA (2105670)

Dear Members of the Hiring Committee,

In addition to the five years I spent teaching high school English and History to students with learning differences, I have spent the last 6 years teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in reading and writing instruction. I believe the skills I have developed as a teacher, teacher educator and researcher align closely with the responsibilities and skills outlined in the description for this job.

Since leaving my position as Research Scientist at Landmark College in 2020, I have been teaching as an Adjunct Professor at UConn and working to complete my PhD. I have also provided full-time care for my 5 year-old son and volunteered in support of a much-needed renovation of his non-profit preschool: Willow Blossom Learning Center. In my role as Board President, I have collaborated with the Center Director and staff to upgrade the building's HVAC systems, re-design classrooms, and secure the funding needed for these projects. I have also volunteered hundreds of hours to complete the carpentry and painting necessary to create a safer and more functional space for the Program. Now that Willow Blossom has re-opened I am seeking a position that allows my family to remain in the Pioneer Valley and affords me the opportunity to apply my skills as an educator and researcher.

In August, I will complete my PhD in Curriculum and Instruction; my graduate studies have built on my classroom teaching experience and I have focused on adolescent literacy instruction, assessment and intervention. Much of my scholarly has focused on "disciplinary literacy": an approach to K-12 literacy instruction that focuses on developing students' literacies through authentic engagement in disciplinary content and practices. As a Graduate Assistant and Adjunct Professor at the UConn, I have applied these ideas to courses on literacy instruction for pre-service teacher candidates (including pre-service ELA teachers) and students in the Literacy Specialist Program. I am confident that my experience and training as an ELA teacher, teacher educator and literacy researcher has prepared me well to meet the demands of this position.

Although working for a company like Pearson would be a departure from my prior experience, I have thrived working both independently and on teams in numerous settings. Working directly with students always requires juggling multiple and competing priorities and approaching every day with flexibility and a willingness to learn; I believe the skills and competencies I've developed as an educator would serve me well in this position and make me an asset to the company and my co-workers. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss my qualifications with you in an interview and I thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Christopher Wenz