

Katelin Tharp

Letter of Introduction

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Dear Hiring Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in joining your instructional team. As a current teacher at Pinole Valley High School and candidate in UC Berkeley's Teacher Education Program (BTEP), I bring a unique combination of expertise: a B.S. in Computer Science and Cognitive Psychology, three years of industry experience, and current placement in both a 10th grade ELA and 12th grade IB English classroom. This interdisciplinary foundation allows me to approach instruction with both a humanizing depth and an analytical precision, preparing students to think critically across disciplines.

My teaching experience extends across several contexts and age groups. At Pinole Valley High School, I develop and implement lesson plans for 10th and 12th grade English courses serving over 100 students. I design instruction aligned with California Common Core standards, Universal Design for Learning principles, and responsive pedagogy. I have led full class period and week-long takeovers both as an emergency substitute and as part of my regular student teaching responsibilities.

Before entering BTEP, I received the Khoury College Undergraduate Teaching Award for my work as a Head Teaching Assistant at Northeastern's London campus. There, I created and graded assessments, facilitated lab and office hour instruction, and built a cross-site educational program for 100+ students. These experiences taught me that effective teaching requires both rigorous course content knowledge and genuine care to how students learn. These are insights I care into in my everyday lesson design and execution.

What distinguishes me as a candidate is my ability to bridge disciplines. My background in cognitive psychology and current work in BTEP inform how I scaffold texts and design assessments that account for different learning profiles. My computer science expertise enables me to integrate digital literacy into humanities instruction. I believe these skills are vital as students navigate an increasingly interconnected and digital world. I anticipate holding additional subject authorizations in Computer Science and Psychology, positioning me to contribute beyond a single department and support interdisciplinary initiatives.

As a Bay Area native, I would welcome the opportunity to bring my interdisciplinary perspective and student-centered pedagogy into your school community. Thank you for considering my application!

Sincerely,

Katelin Tharp
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B.S. Computer Science & Cognitive Psychology, Northeastern University