421 Beam Drive

Pittsburgh, PA 15236

April 13, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am currently student teaching at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania, and I anticipate graduating in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Level Education with dual concentrations in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics and a minor in Special Education and Diversity. I am also eligible to add Middle Level Science and Secondary Mathematics to my certificate. I feel I would be an ideal candidate for a Middle Level position within my areas of certification.

Throughout my time at Gannon University, I have had over 700 hours of experience in a variety of different classroom settings. Due to Gannon’s unique location in downtown Erie, I have had experience in urban, rural, and suburban schools. These field experience opportunities have allowed me to explore different teaching and learning styles as well as implement best practices learned through my coursework.

During my student teaching experience at Fairview Middle School in 7th Grade English Language Arts, I had the opportunity to work with approximately 60 students with a diverse range of learning needs. The transition to the PA Core Standards left me with a flexible curriculum around which to plan lessons by aligning standards, objectives, and assessment. I also collaborated with the Learning Support teacher to plan and teach a co-taught inclusive class comprised of students with and without Individualized Education Plans.

After completing seven weeks of English Language Arts, I transitioned to the 7th Grade Mathematics classroom in Fairview Middle School, where I am currently completing the second half of my student teaching placement. Thus far, I have planned and implemented units on probability and statistics aligned to the PA Core Standards for four classes of students, including one co-taught class. I have utilized a variety of informal and formal assessment techniques in order to differentiate and meet the needs of the students in the classes. I also planned lessons integrating iPads and SMART Board technology.

These experiences, along with the other experiences I have had both inside and outside of the classroom, have enabled me to learn and grow as professional educator. I have engaged in professional development conferences and presentations to learn about new trends in education. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to serve the Erie community through my involvement in campus organizations.

I believe my combination of experiences inside and outside of the classroom has provided me with the skills necessary to be a successful Middle Level teacher. I look forward to discussing this opportunity with you, or other opportunities you may have in the future. I can be contacted at (412) 992-0635 or by email at [scusick12@gmail.com](mailto:scusick12@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shannon Cusick

**OBJECTIVE**

To obtain a Mathematics or English Language Arts teaching position in a 4-8 classroom.

**EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Science, Middle Level Education (4-8)** May 2016

**Concentration:** English Language Arts/Reading & Mathematics

**Additional Certifications:** Science (4-8); Mathematics (7-12)

**Minor:** Special Education and Diversity

Gannon University, Erie, PA

**GPA: 3.983** Dean’s List eight semesters

* Earned the Academic Excellence Award for Middle-Level Education 4-8.
* Earned the Paul Dobrushin Award for exemplifying competence in teaching.
* Earned Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

recognition in 2015.

* Earned U.S. Steel academic scholarship.
* Inducted into Phi Eta Sigma and Lambda Sigma Honors Societies.

**CERTIFICATION**

Eligible for Pennsylvania Teaching Certification May 2016

**STUDENT TEACHING**

**Grade 7 Mathematics**, Fairview Middle School, Fairview, PA Spring 2016

* Currently completing until May 6, 2016.
* Planned and implemented seventh grade mathematics lessons.
* Integrated iPads and other forms of technology into lesson plans.
* Developed students’ abilities to self-evaluate.

**Grade 7 English Language Arts**, Fairview Middle School, Fairview, PA Spring 2016

* Collaborated with the Learning Support teacher to plan and implement

lessons in co-taught class.

* Differentiated lessons based upon student readiness, ability, and learning profile.
* Analyzed assessment data to plan lessons to fill gaps in student understanding.
* Created collaborative learning opportunities for students to learn from peers.
* Integrated iPads and other forms of technology into lesson plans.

**FIELD EXPERIENCES**

Grade 5 English Language Arts Edison Elementary School Fall 2015

Grade 7 Mathematics James S. Wilson Middle School Fall 2014

Grade 7 Science Rice Avenue Middle School Fall 2014

Grade 6 English Language Arts North East Middle School Spring 2014

Grade 6-8 Reading/Religion Saint Peter Cathedral School Fall 2013

**RELATED EXPERIENCES**

**Personal Tutor** Fall 2014-Present

* Developed instructional materials to increase reading fluency and comprehension.

**STEM-PASS Calculus 1 Tutor**  Fall 2015

STEM Center, Gannon University, Erie, PA

* Attended Calculus 1 sessions to refresh knowledge.
* Planned specialized tutoring sessions for students in two sections of Calculus 1.

**ESL Field Experience Observation** Fall 2015

Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Erie, PA

* Observed teaching methods for students at different levels of English language development and worked with small groups of students to practice skills in areas of weakness.

**STEM Center Tutor** Aug 2014-May 2015

STEM Center, Gannon University, Erie, PA

* Assisted students with homework and test preparation in mathematics

and liberal studies classes.

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Food and Beverage Supervisor** May 2011-Present

Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA (Seasonal)

* Started as team member and worked to become supervisor.
* Developed money handling and food safety skills.
* Supervise team members during daily operations.
* Delegate tasks to ensure safe and efficient operation of building.
* Provide the highest level of guest service, promoting the goal of creating

a family friendly atmosphere.

**SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

Volunteer, ESO Dances Fall 2012-Present

* Assisted with registration at dances for adults with disabilities.

Volunteer, Arc Social Club Events Fall 2013-Present

* Planned social gatherings and outings for adults with disabilities.

Volunteer, Literacy Nights Fall 2014-Fall 2015

* Planned and implemented activities to educate parents on the importance

of reading to their children.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Presenter, Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Zeta Conference April 2016

* Informed students in the School of Education about the student teaching process.

Presenter, Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children Conference November 2015

* Collaborated to create and present poster presentation about Arc Social Club Events.

**CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT**

Gannon University Society for Exceptional Children Fall 2012-Present

* Member 2012-2013 Secretary 2013-2014,

President 2014-2015 Vice President 2015-2016

Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Zeta Fall 2014-Present

* Member 2014-2015 Treasurer 2015-2016

Student Pennsylvania State Education Association Fall 2013-Present

* Member 2013-2014 Treasurer 2014-2016

**References**

**Dr. Janet C. Bobango**

University Supervisor

Gannon University

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**Mrs. Christina Costello**

Cooperating Teacher

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**Mr. David Hudson**

Cooperating Teacher

Fairview Middle School

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**Mr. George R. Sucha**

University Supervisor

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