

January 31, 2014

Dear Kelsey Wilkinson:

I am writing this letter to acknowledge and express appreciation to you for your voluntary participation in a research-based, digitally enhanced internship experience in Fall 2013. In addition to fulfilling the requirements of our Faculty of Education's traditional four-month internship experience, your willingness to become part of a Teacher-Intern-Faculty Advisor (TIFA) internship learning community meant that you also actively engaged in the following professional development activities:

- ◆ A discussion forum reflecting on ideas and issues related to internship, held among TIFA participants using *Moodle*;
- ◆ Video recording and editing of several lessons that you planned and taught in your mathematics internship classrooms;
- ◆ Virtual meetings (using *Skype*) with me, your faculty advisor, as part of an extended Professional Development Process (PDP), where pre-conferencing on your inquiry-based lessons occurred several days in advance of my visit to your school and classroom;
- ◆ Three (3) face-to-face professional development days at the University of Regina _____, including lesson study and classroom teaching video analysis with other interns and teachers in the community, and participation in a research focus group session with the other interns;
- ◆ One (1) virtual professional development session (using *Adobe Connect* video conference platform, on November 4), including video analysis, discussion, and participation in a research focus group conversation with the TIFA community.

Aside from enhancing your own professional experience of internship, your participation in this project has contributed in meaningful ways to my own program of research. My research study, entitled *Reconceptualizing internship experiences: Exploring mentorship in secondary*

mathematics teacher education, which is funded through a *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada Insight Grant*, has two key aims:

- ◆ To create and sustain a professional internship learning community among a faculty advisor, classroom teachers, and interns through the use of multiple digital technologies;
- ◆ To reconsider traditional approaches of teacher education programs and the role that faculty advisors play in field experiences.

I hope and trust that our TIFA learning community provided you with an internship experience that was significantly enhanced and that will contribute greatly to your eventual role within a school division as a teacher who is part of a professional learning community. I thoroughly enjoyed working with you in this capacity and I wish you the best in your future teaching career.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kathleen Nolan, Associate Professor
Mathematics Education
Faculty of Education
University of Regina

