February 26, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kelly O'Connor - Banaszak and I am an Elementary Education graduate from Governors State University.  I believe my educational background and past work experiences would make me an ideal candidate for an elementary teaching position.

Currently, I am working as an aide at Oak Glen Elementary School in Lansing School District 158.  I provide reading and math instructional support to at-risk students in the form of: interventions, supplemental programs and push-in support. During the 2011 – 2012 school year, I split my time between kindergarten and third grade. For the current school year, I have been working full-time in kindergarten.  During the summer of 2012, I also had the opportunity to work with at-risk 2nd grade students as a part of Lansing School District 158’s summer school program.

Throughout my time at Governors State University, I had the opportunity to gain a wide variety of experience in the classroom.  Most recently, I completed student teaching in a kindergarten classroom at Kimberly Heights School in Arbor Park School District 145.  I worked as part of a collaborative team to create thematic units that were taught in the classroom.  I also created and implemented various standards-based lessons for first and fifth grade classrooms during two clinical teaching experiences.  Prior to my experience in the classroom while attending Governors State University, I worked as a paraprofessional for three years in various grade levels and classroom settings.

My philosophy on education is that each student has the ability to reach their full potential when provided with a safe, nurturing and stimulating learning environment.  All students are unique individuals that learn best in different ways.  It is up to educators to allow students opportunities to fully utilize their strengths in order to be successful through the use of: differentiated instruction, Gardner's Multiple Intelligences and Bloom's Taxonomy.  Students learn best through engaging, hands-on learning activities that make content topics interesting and relevant.  I also believe that technology is a vital tool in today's classroom and should be integrated as much as possible. My ultimate goal is to become the best educator that I can be through the use of: collaboration, reflective practices and hard work.  I hope to instill the same passion and love that I have for education, in my students.

I believe I will bring a high amount of enthusiasm and passion to your teaching team.  I am eager to grow in my profession and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss my qualifications, in detail, regarding any elementary teaching positions.  I may be reached via e-mail, cell phone or at the "Contact Form" section of my Weebly website: www.kellybanaszak.weebly.com at your earliest convenience.  Thank-you for reviewing this letter and I look forward to collaborating with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Kelly O'Connor - Banaszak