

Ariane M. Thomas, Psy.D., J.D. Lecturer

Division of Human Development and Quantitative Methods University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education 3700 Walnut Street, Room 343 Philadelphia, PA 19104 215-898-1783 arianet@upenn.edu

To Whom It May Concern:

Gabrielle Witkin has been a student of mine for two years of study in the Counseling and Mental Health Services program at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. I taught her in Counseling Ethics and Professional Principles and also in a year long Internship Seminar. Throughout her time in my classes, I was able to observe great growth and resourcefulness in Gabby; and, at the end of her training, she demonstrated a very high level of professionalism and skill. I am quite proud to see her graduate and to watch her begin the next stage of her professional endeavors. She is mature and well prepared for professional life, and I have no doubt about her capacity to contribute meaningfully to a school or organization.

Gabby was eager and committed long before she actually started our program. I recall meeting her at an open house prior to her admission, and she stood out to me even then as a someone with both the motivation and the interpersonal skills that are required to be successful in a field like counseling. When she actually came to the program, she did not disappoint. In both years, she always contributed actively to the classroom environment, asking questions and participating actively in discussions. Particularly during her second year and in conjunction with her experiences at her internship at Friends Select School, I noticed an even heightened level of willingness in Gabby to engage in discussion and to contribute to

classroom discourse. She was always thoughtful and discerning in her contributions, and never did so in an effort to gain participation points or favor from her instructor. To the contrary, Gabby's comments were always thoroughly considered and measured as she offered them. Her contributions were substantive and useful in terms of furthering the discourse. They also added to the toolkit of considerations and skills that we could all use to work with our clients in various settings. Gabby is practical and purposeful in her work and her comments often included information and strategies she learned in other courses or information she garnered from her own research. Her focus and professional commitment is to always improving her skills and her ability to make meaningful, practical, and positive changes in the lives of clients, children, and in school communities. Regard and respect for this professionalism and dedication was consistently reflected in her supervisor evaluations as well.

In sum, Gabby is professional, practical, highly skilled, and motivated. She will be a strong asset to any school or clinical community. Should you have any additional questions about Gabby's qualifications, please feel free to contact me at (215) 898-1783.

Regards,

Ariane M. Thomas, Psy.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist