

Dear Members of the DPC,

Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to both observe Dr. Ramirez's teaching and to engage in co-teaching with her during CI3900. Dr. Ramirez consistently models effective student-centered teaching practices that pre-service and in-service teachers could employ with their own middle level students. She seeks to engage students and develop higher level thinking and critical analysis of current issues and trends both in middle level education and areas centering on diverse perspectives and cultures. She exhibits a positive rapport with students, building an atmosphere of trust and openness that cultivates community and intellectual risk taking. She utilizes a variety of approaches to encourage student collaboration, evaluation and critical discourse. From my first observation of Dr. Ramirez's teaching when she interviewed for the position at Appalachian State, I knew that she would become a valued colleague who is able to model research verified practices for our middle level students.

Dr. Holly Thornton