

To Whom It May Concern:

Over the last year it has been my pleasure to have Dr. Laurie A. Ramirez as a wonderful professor, club advisor, and mentor. Dr. Ramirez is extremely knowledgeable in diversity in education and teaching young adolescents. Dr. Ramirez has taught me more about how to interact with diverse populations of students in the classroom than I ever could have imagined. Because of her, my transition into the classroom for internships has been smooth and successful.

In addition to being an innovative professor, I've had the joy of working with Dr. Ramirez with the Appalachian State University chapter of the Collegiate Middle Level Association. Under Dr. Ramirez's guidance members of the chapter attended the National Middle School Association conference in Louisville, Kentucky as well as the North Carolina Middle School Association conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. I had the opportunity to see Dr. Ramirez present her research at these conferences and she introduced me to the realm of professional development through interacting with other middle school educators. Dr. Ramirez attends every meeting, fundraiser, and is supportive in every idea that the club presents. She is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that we are learning and growing as educators through this organization. Dr. Ramirez helped me to write a proposal and rationale for the North Carolina Middle School Association conference, both of which were accepted.

Dr. Ramirez deserves to be a tenured faculty member of the Reich College of Education at Appalachian State University. Dr. Ramirez exhibits a willingness to help students, a vast amount of knowledge in educational techniques, and enthusiasm to teach teacher candidates. She has motivated me to want to be a middle grades teacher and has pushed me further than I would have pushed myself. She has inspired me to reach my greatest potential, and most of all she has made me realize where I really want to go in life. I want to inspire and motivate like she does and I hope that I make an impact in the lives of my students like she has impacted my life.

She is, by far, one of the most inspirational people I have ever met and I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with her throughout my collegiate career.

Sincerely,

Kelly J. Leonhardt