

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in reflection of my personal experiences with Dr. Laurie Ramirez. For the past two years, I have taken her for multiple classes in my undergraduate work for a Middle Grades Education degree. At first, this was incidental as I had no prior knowledge of Dr. Ramirez's previous classes or background. However, her class soon became one of my favorites and I chose to take several more classes under her guidance.

One of the first things that I learned about Dr. Ramirez is that she is "different" from most of the professors in my college career. Unlike many of the professors I have had in my field, she has a diverse background from her teaching experiences. I found this incredibly exciting because she has experience in classrooms outside of the four main content areas. Dr. Ramirez was able share with us about how she experienced learner differences in her classroom because of socioeconomic status, race, gender, and age. She was able to bring different perspectives into the classroom because she had taught students in situations that none of the people in my class had ever seen or sometimes heard of. This gave many of us a chance to discuss situations that we could potentially find in our future classrooms that we had not yet contemplated.

Dr. Ramirez has also been readily available to me and other students during our field experiences. This has been helpful for me personally because my first internship was in an ESL classroom—a situation much different from my peers. But Dr. Ramirez had experience with a similar student population and was able to relate to my experiences and help me learn from them. I was given opportunities to advocate for such students during her classes, as well. This gave me a chance to express to my fellow classmates how important it is to learn how to reach *all* students, not just those we can relate to. I thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and felt that I was able to share something that I was passionate about through my work in her class.

I think that Dr. Ramirez is capable of providing exceptional learning opportunities for her students, and I feel lucky to have had to opportunity to learn from her. I know that I will continue to look to her as an example in my field and for guidance when I encounter a challenging situation. She is truly a leader in the Middle Grades profession.

Sincerely,

Megan Shelton