

2 January 2023

Dear sir or madam:

There are few students whom I have seen more of than Amelia Harkenrider. She has been my advisee at Hope College and has taken four of my classes. She has been a delight to know and it is not without some remorse that I am writing to recommend her for a teaching career at your school, if only because she will no longer be at mine!

Ms. Harkenrider has been a stellar student and a promising pre-professional teacher. Over our courses together I observed that she was often the first student to have finished a long final project, and often the only one to seek extensive feedback beforehand in order to make the project stronger. A student of French as well as of education, I still recall her excellent final paper from French Sociolinguistics which focused on the challenges of multilingualism in schools in the French Caribbean. Even in her French classes, Ms. Harkenrider had an eye toward teaching.

Over her time at Hope College Ms. Harkenrider has completed hundreds of hours of classroom observation and student teaching. For the pre-professional class she had with me, World Language Teaching Methods, she completed a 30-hour placement in a local high school French class from which she received a favorable and affirming evaluation from her mentor teacher. She is clearly capable, however, of teaching throughout the K-12 system, and has a natural empathy for younger students that would serve her (and them!) well should she find such a position. Her background in linguistics and language learning theory will also make her a particularly strong asset as an ESL instructor or general classroom teacher with English language learners.

In addition to being a mature, responsible and hard-working young woman, Ms. Harkenrider exudes a human kindness that will endear her to colleagues but especially to her students. In many ways, this is a precondition of learning; if students do not feel cared for or seen, they will not respond as well no matter how perfectly executed the pedagogy. Ms. Harkenrider will do both of these and beyond. I would count myself lucky to have my own children in her class. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or requests for further information.

Sincerely,



Joshua Kraut
Associate Professor of French
Department of World Languages and Cultures
Hope College
kraut@hope.edu