

LEEWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EDUCATION
Associate of Arts in Teaching



May 1, 2013

Dear Principal Hayashi:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of support for **Aida Corpuz** who, as of the Spring 2013 semester, will have completed her student teaching at Waipahu High School. I have known Ms. Corpuz on a professional basis for nearly three years, serving as her advisor while she attended Leeward Community College. Through my observations and collaborative experiences with her, I have witnessed first-hand how capable, committed, and consummately professional she is. I have seen her transform from pupil to mentor to teacher in a short time and as a result, have gained great respect and admiration for her enthusiasm, creativity, and total dedication to student success. Therefore, it is with my highest recommendation that I submit this letter to support any opportunity that will allow Ms. Corpuz to become the educator she is meant to be.

In the field of education, we often hear that the best teachers are those who are passionate, caring, patient, supportive, organized, diligent, and have a sincere desire to work with and help children. Without a doubt, Ms. Corpuz embraces all of these characteristics...and more. She is compassionate, a problem-solver, knowledgeable, and tenacious in her desire to help others. However, there are two main qualities that I particularly want to highlight as Ms. Corpuz's strengths: her ability to work collaboratively in any group setting and her impeccable leadership skills.

I have personally had the pleasure of being able to observe Ms. Corpuz's work ethic not only in a formal educational setting but equally important, outside of the walls of a classroom. While at Leeward Community College, Ms. Corpuz served as the President for our Future Teachers Club. This is the largest and most active student club on campus boasting over 100 members. This volunteer position required hours of meetings and collaboratively working with faculty, staff, campus security, community members, and of course other students in order to effectively coordinate year-long professional development, personal enrichment, and community service events. Ms. Corpuz proved time and time again that she was not only able to adequately work in any team setting, she thrived in these situations. Most times the focus of these group efforts was on improving student experiences and enhancing the learning opportunities of either the club members or the elementary, secondary, or special needs students they served through their community projects (e.g., read-alouds, Special Olympics, etc.). In these situations, Ms. Corpuz's enthusiasm was infectious and it was a challenge not to feel inspired in her presence.

This leads me to discuss her second and probably most valuable character trait: her leadership skills. Ms. Corpuz possesses an innate talent to motivate others, to inspire them to do their best, and to lead by example. As mentioned earlier, Ms. Corpuz took on the role of President for the Future Teachers Club, which by nature, demands an effective role model to guide such a large group toward achieving set goals. However, even after leaving Leeward Community College, I have been able to witness her growth as a leader and community contributor. Recognizing her abilities to relate to students, to share her rich experiences in student teaching, and her natural teaching instincts, we invited Ms. Corpuz to be a guest speaker in our ED 295 (Service Learning) course this past Spring 2013. ED 295 is the capstone course for our Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degree. It is the last Education course required for students and therefore, those enrolled are typically ready to move on to university teacher education programs the following semester. Our topic for that day was about contextualizing lesson plans, making them relevant for the student, and the various ways in which to do this. Ms. Corpuz was the first and only former student we thought to ask to provide perspective on this important topic. Without hesitation, she agreed to accept this challenge and as a result, presented an engaging, interactive, relevant hour-long lesson titled "*No Bones About It – An Introduction to Close-Up Critical Reading.*" Besides the excellent content of this lesson, the real benefit to our students was her ability to effectively model what contextualization looked like in action. We had talked about the theory, but Ms. Corpuz brought the theory to life. It was clear that the 40+ AAT college students in attendance viewed her with respect, as a leader, and a friendly source that they could rely on for further information and guidance. It was truly an honor to witness how Ms. Corpuz, a natural born leader and motivator, was able to further cultivate her talents to become a true professional in the classroom.

It is clear that in a short time, Aida Corpuz has made outstanding contributions to the field of education. Therefore, I reiterate my unconditional support for her future endeavors. Her potential is limitless!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Thompson Lee".

Erin Thompson Lee
Assistant Professor, CC (AAT Counselor)
Leeward Community College