

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to recommend Samantha Bennett for a program award. I have just had the pleasure of working as her Associate Teacher at Ridgemont High School for the last several months.

Had I known about this scholarship from the beginning of her internship I would have already written this recommendation. Miss Bennett is an extremely competent teacher and has been since the beginning of the teaching term. Within the first few weeks she had learned the routines, the environment and many of the students quirks. She had no trouble fitting in and was helping very early with some extra curricular teams and our morning breakfast club.

She showed competency with the range of student behaviours and learning styles. She has demonstrated her ability to balance a full course load with her extracurricular activities as a coach for three teams and her own sports and school commitments. She has shown her passion for the students with her engagement in each class, her enthusiasm and energy when teaching and her abilities to teach to each student in the class. The students would listen intently when she was demonstrating exercises or when she was working with a student who was disengaged and partnered with him to challenge him.

Not only is Samantha dedicated to her students but already is very competent in her field and receives advice and recommendations with an open mind. She is an excellent role model for students and other teachers. She shows her passion for teaching and learning each day. One of the challenges of teaching is to keep each student in the class and engaged. Samantha taught my classes in DDP (special education) with students who were non-verbal, physically disabled, mildly intellectually disabled, and down syndrome to those students in our mainstream who were between self motivated and to some unorganized and often absent. Samantha came to class each day and stayed upbeat, prepared and ready to teach to all of our students each day. She would also stay after school or during lunch hour and would coach the girls volleyball and rugby teams and helped out with the boys rugby team. Rare that you see that amount of dedication and competency so quickly in a student teacher.

It was a pleasure to work with her and I would recommend her to any teaching staff and she still has another year of training. I am very excited for her start. I am hoping that this letter can contribute to any financial support she can receive. This support would not be wasted on such a dedicated person.

Bev Melymick