

Tobi Cavazos

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To the Consideration Committee,

It is my honor to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of my colleague, Christina Espinoza. I have known Christina in the capacity of 8th grade Social Studies/ELA teacher, EL Department Chair, District ELD Lead, School Site Council Co-Member, Visible Learning Committee Co-Member and personal teacher mentor. I have been bettered, both professionally and personally, from working with her continuously over the last four years at Cucamonga Middle School.

Christina was first introduced to me as the go-to person on campus for help with supporting English Language Learners. Though her content specialty is ELA/SS, she provided clear and effective support for providing my EL students with access to mathematics instruction. I returned to her repeatedly for assistance with revising, revisiting and communicating these supports to students and their families. Christina's expertise and commitment to supporting all students with access to content is unparalleled. In addition to a vast knowledge of specific instructional strategies and the evolution of these strategies as students become more competent in second language acquisition, Ms. Espinoza leads with her heart. She possesses a unique and poignant understanding of the emotional and social supports that will help English Language Learners and their families thrive and develop a sense of community. This has made her a leader on campus; all staff benefit from working with Ms. Espinoza.

Christina gives equal focus to planning, differentiating, selecting instructional and assessment strategies and developing consistent management approaches for the inclusion and enrichment of all students. I have witnessed this first-hand while working in the same grade level and content area as Ms. Espinoza. Christina is reflective of her own practices as an educator and openly engages in conversations geared toward student learning and professional development. It is clear she seeks growth for herself and encourages the same in her colleagues. She is an educator who leads by example, collaborates with enthusiasm and is eager to impact change. Christina has her eye on the prize, 100% of the time- the inclusion of all students and their equitable access to education.

On a personal level, I am grateful for the steady and calming support and guidance Christina has offered in the years we have worked together. She is someone I trust to help me navigate the challenges of meeting students' needs and reflecting on the impact of my instructional choices. She inspires me to remember the importance of our daily task and motivates me to remain focused, particularly this year.

I recommend her for your consideration without reservation. She is an invaluable asset to all in education.

Tobi Cavazos
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Cucamonga Middle School Teacher