

January 21, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Ms. Aricia Beckman has applied for emeritus status following 38 years of service to the University of Northern Iowa. I am writing in support of her application.

Prior to joining the Department of Special Education at UNI, Ms. Beckman taught special education students at Malcolm Price Laboratory School for 24 years. In that position, she served as a Support Services Educator, teaching students entitled to special education services and students identified as at-risk in grades 7-12. She also served as a third and fourth grade general education teacher, as well as the Student Development/At-Risk Coordinator from 2005 -2007.

She was hired by the Department of Special Education with grant funding to coordinate the UNI Strategist Network in 2007 to assist teachers holding provisional special education certification to acquire the endorsement. Since that time, Ms. Beckman has served in our Department to prepare preservice teachers through her course instruction and supervision of field-based practica. While teaching several courses for the Department, her dedication to the SPED 4171/5171 methods courses over the last several years has been impressive. Ms. Beckman's extensive teaching experience and her content familiarity have enabled her to develop this course to prepare our preservice teachers to address the social and emotional needs of students with mild, moderate, and significant disabilities. She facilitates a learning environment where students have the freedom to engage in critical thought and diverse ideas. Ms. Beckman's teaching reflects a personalization of instructional design and delivery based on students' backgrounds, experiences, interests, and dispositions.

Concurrent with her teaching assignments within the Department, Ms. Beckman supervises our preservice teachers in their field-based practica. In that role, she leads weekly seminars, participates in team meetings, observes students in practicum placements, and provides post-conference feedback. Her extensive teaching experience enables Ms. Beckman to provide valuable coaching and guidance to our preservice teachers.

Ms. Aricia Beckman has also demonstrated a commitment to service activities at the Departmental, College, and University levels, as well as to local and state professional initiatives. She has enthusiastically participated in search committees, awards committees, diversity committees, curriculum committees, and conference committees. Ms. Beckman's contributions to these service activities are noteworthy.

Ms. Beckman's participation in our Special Education program has been significant and has provided important benefits for students, colleagues, and staff. Her credentials, professional experiences, and content expertise have provided valuable contributions to our teacher preparation program. Her long and distinguished teaching and service record at the University of Northern Iowa supports her application for emeritus status.



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