

September 21, 2007

Department of History
Room 422, College of Professional Studies
UW-Stevens Point
1901 Fourth Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Dear Selection Committee:

Please consider me as an applicant for the Social Sciences Education Program, Spring 2008. I currently have a BS in Geography from UW-Eau Claire, and have returned to school in order to acquire licensure to teach Broadfield Social Studies and History at the secondary level. After completing a year of certification coursework at UW-Eau Claire, I have transferred to UW-Stevens Point due to my husband's employment relocation.

I am pursuing a career in education because I wish to join a profession that allows me to do something I love – encouraging intellectual curiosity and facilitating learning. As a Geography Teaching Assistant and tutor at UW-Eau Claire, I enjoyed helping students understand concepts that at first were difficult for them. In 2004, I taught English in Japan, and it was my hope that with each lesson I could help students get one step closer to meeting their goals. Also, through the education program at UW-Eau Claire, I had the opportunity to gain field experience in middle and high school classes. I admired the various ways teachers used creativity to help students gain knowledge. This firsthand insight to the classroom environment and teaching profession was invaluable to me as it solidified my desire to teach. It is my hope that as a teacher I can make a positive contribution to society in my day-to-day work.

My goal is to teach social science because the discipline includes the subjects I am most passionate about – history and geography. The learning of these subjects, in addition to the other social sciences, helps us understand how we became who we are today, why we think the way we think, and why we do what we do. An understanding of these subjects also allows us to appreciate how powerful the interaction of human beings is in shaping the future of our world. Through enthusiastic classroom instruction, I will strive to prepare my future students to engage in critical and analytical thinking about the world around them so that they may make informed decisions and become responsible citizens.

To be an effective teacher, one must be enthusiastic about the subjects they teach so that they may pass that enthusiasm on to their students. A successful educator must also have a constant desire to seek new knowledge about the subjects they are teaching. Whether it be reading a book recommended by a professor, traveling and learning about new places

and cultures, or attending lectures or programs in my free time, I am always looking for opportunities to increase my content knowledge and understanding. Teaching at the secondary level is of great interest to me because it provides me with the opportunity to continue to explore and teach the subjects that I enjoy the most, and in doing so, better serve the students.

Thank you for considering me for admission. I look forward to being a part of the Social Sciences Education Program beginning Spring 2008.

Sincerely,