

January 20, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Maddison L. McGann. I was a student in Ms. McGann's first year Rhetoric class which she taught and most importantly impacted me as a student. She is an individual who I look up to as not only as a teacher but also as a friend. She has the ability to make a single class unique and memorable. Ms. McGann combines intelligence with a sense of charisma and purpose. She is an educator who understands the life of the average college student allowing her to mold her class in a way that helps the student to a greater extent. She has the combination of personality, intelligence, passion, strong work ethic, and adaptation which will lead her to distinguished achievements in her life.

Ms. McGann impacted me tremendously. As a student, an English based class such as Rhetoric was never my favorite class but after sitting in her class my passion and appreciation continued to grow. She had the ability to make Rhetoric not just a learning experience but a fun environment. This environment that she provided allowed me to grow as an individual. It allowed me to open up and participate more due to the new interests that I now have. Throughout my time in her class, I have put into practice and developed my skills as a speaker and writer. She taught her students how to think, relate, and ultimately learn from our past mistakes. Ms. McGann wants everyone to succeed. She does this by presenting in ways which are interesting and involving. She is a very creative instructor who always did things outside the box. This allowed us to retain the information she was trying to give, in addition to, helping us students practice our skills such as communication or having confidence in ourselves. She stimulates creativity and she continues to think of other creative ways to express knowledge in her students' understanding. She also can engage her students, for example, she gave an assignment to the class to take a photo of ourselves doing an action. With this photo, we had to act the part and present to the class. That assignment was an amazing assignment due to the creativity involved. Everyone showed their unique personality and helped create a stronger bond within the class.

Ms. McGann does more than the average instructor. She digs deeper into topics and can incorporate new ideas into the class in unique ways. She does this by presenting her materials in an organized and efficient manner. Ms. McGann uses class time effectively and efficiently by coming to class prepared with goals that she wants to accomplish, as well as, planning her classes. She created a well written syllabus that details objectives, assignments, and grading scale. Ms. McGann is also willing to go that extra step to get the students to do whatever is necessary to learn. She presents in an organized manner so students can see the relationships within the material to the real world. Ms. McGann shows eagerness and excitement when teaching in order to improve student attitudes toward both the subject and the instructor. She makes learning a pleasurable experience and she has the goal to develop the desire to learn. Ms. McGann also praises successful performances to motivate future learning. She did this by commenting on certain aspects of a student's speech and conveying it to the class for other students to take those ideas into consideration for future speeches.

The college transition was a very difficult transition for me. There were times where I felt as if I didn't belong or that I wasn't good enough to be here. Every week I looked forward to one

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thing, my 2:30-4:20 Rhetoric class every Wednesday and Friday. Ms. McGann provided me with something that no other thing at the University of Iowa provided me and that was the sense of family and home. I cannot thank her enough for that. She did that by giving her full attention to a class with many different unique personalities and ultimately caring for each one of us. Making us feel as if we were one big team. Every afternoon when I walked into the class, Ms. McGann had a smile on her face excited for what the day holds. Her joy and positivity brightened the day of many individuals and she was able to make class a happier experience that most teachers struggle to accomplish.

She allowed me to look past the surface level and to dig deeper and try my hardest to accomplish a task. She wanted the best for all her students. She had the goal to help her students see that they are capable and that they did belong. She believed in her students. Ms. McGann recognizes the value and worth of each person and she tries to understand her students and their perspectives. She provided her students with comfort and wise words that pushed us to the next level and helped build our confidence.

Ms. McGann is a reliable individual who you know is willing to put her students first. Her door is always opened, and she encourages individuals to stop by if they need help on a specific assignment. She makes it clear from the beginning that she wants to help her students learn and most importantly she takes the time and effort to know each student and adapt to that student's needs. Ms. McGann uses student's reactions and feedback to improve and guide her for future classes. She did this by handing out pieces of papers to the class and telling us to write things that we want to work on or things we struggle with during class. In addition to student feedback, Ms. McGann was able to relate to the life of a college undergrad student and due to her being able to relate, she made adjustments to favor the student in order to relieve stress. By making these adjustments, she valued each individual and it showed that she cared for the student on a more personal level.

I would strongly recommend Maddison McGann for top consideration in the education profession. She has the intellect, passion, communicative skills, and work ethic to be an outstanding educator and she would be an asset to any organization.

Sincerely,

Jason R. Rodriguez

University of Iowa

Class of 2022