



To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write in support of Ms. Rebecca (Becky) Klassen's application for this position. I have known Becky for four years as a trusted colleague and leader in the field of world language education. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to the field through her teaching, advocacy, and service to students and the profession. It has been a pleasure to collaborate with Becky in various capacities to improve and expand access to multilingual education in the state.

I first met Becky at the Rhode Island Foreign Language Association (RIFLA) Annual Fall Conference in 2017 where her presentation was selected as "Best of Conference," and which she also presented at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL, our regional organization) and at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) national convention. She has since been a regular presenter and participant at RIFLA conferences and events. Becky also serves on the RIFLA Board of Directors and on the RIFLA Advocacy Committee, of which she is now chair. She played an integral part in making our first annual Multilingual Education Advocacy Day at the RI State House in April 2019 a success and has continued to be a lead organizer in this effort. She recruited students and families to participate in the event and choreographed a statewide student chorus. Throughout the legislative session, Becky built relationships with legislators and testified at House and Senate Finance and Education Committee hearings in support of multilingual education. Becky also collaborates with a variety of other organizations as a member of the Coalition for a Multilingual RI. These relationships would be key to improving and expanding World Languages Education & Bilingual initiatives.

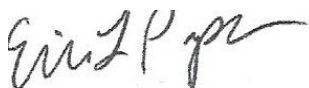
In my role as Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Rhode Island College World Languages Education Program, I have also worked with Becky to develop coaching and support for teacher candidates. As the Spanish teacher at the Henry Barnard School (HBS) at RIC, she designed the curriculum for grades PK-5 incorporating the ACTFL World-Readiness Standards for Learning Languages (national standards) and served as a cooperating teacher and mentor for many of my students. In this role she went above and beyond to create additional opportunities to integrate French and Portuguese, in addition to Spanish, into the HBS offerings through after school programs. In mentoring teacher candidates, she worked to help them to bring their strengths and

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experiences into their teaching, using modeling of high-leverage teaching practices in world languages education and co-teaching to gradually release responsibility to the student teacher.

At the heart of all of Ms. Klassen's teaching, learning, and advocacy are the strengths and characteristics of her students. She brings languages to life through her lessons and extracurricular activities, including *LA Mesa Espanola* and the *Extravaganza de Español*. Through her service on the RIFLA Board, she has become intricately familiar with the Seal of Biliteracy process and would ensure that students have equitable access to this recognition. Any institution would be fortunate to have Ms. Klassen leading world languages education and I recommend her highly for this role. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [epapa@ric.edu](mailto:epapa@ric.edu).

Sincerely,



Erin L. Papa, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Educational Studies

Coordinator, World Languages Education Programs (BA, RITE, MAT)