December 13, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Annie Oeming demonstrated her dedication to helping students while studying with me Winter 2004 in Seminar in Peer Tutoring, an advanced writing and teaching course. Ms. Oeming communicated writing strategies to students less skilled than she; these strategies often entailed conveying unpleasant truths to other students in that their essays were not nearly as sophisticated as they assumed them to be. In these interactions with students, Ms. Oeming negotiated the gap between her vaster knowledge and theirs in a way that allowed the students to hear these truths, and, thus, incorporate her strategies into improving their essays.

The course also required skilled writing. In one of Ms. Oeming's first writing projects, she carefully detailed a relationship between the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the plight of an individual student who had been sexually abused by her stepfather. She argued persuasively that all educational professionals are responsible to uphold the rights of children as articulated in The Rights of the Child and demonstrated child abuse exacts a horrendous toll on the child that continues well into adulthood. Aside from illustrating a keen mind and deft research skills, Ms. Oeming proved her commitment to perfection in presenting her ideas; she rewrote her work many times so her words and arrangement of them would convey her argument in the most detailed and persuasive of ways.

Ms. Oeming is committed to helping others succeed in education, particular those who come to school from backgrounds rife with poverty, disadvantage, and abuse. She is thoughtful, mature, and intelligent. She works hard, and she possesses the perseverance befitting someone with her aspirations. I recommend her without reservation. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions or comments; I am happy to further discuss how Ms. Oeming will contribute to your faculty.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ohrstrom, M.A.
Lecturer II