

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

May 27, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to offer a strong recommendation of Suzanne Reinhardt as an excellent candidate for this position.

Ms. Reinhardt was a student in my Master's level course – CEP 817, Learning Technology through Design in Spring 2005. Through the semester, she demonstrated a consistent commitment to the course goals, and to applying an intelligent and thoughtful approach to using design thinking to problem-solve and innovate. More importantly, she showed an impressive and ongoing capacity for learning and working thoughtfully and collaboratively with colleagues and peers, for her own engagement and development.

It was clear that she was thinking deeply about the coursework, and this was evident in the creativity and quality of her work across assignments – in particular her commitment to working on a problem of practice with resonance and careful application of design thinking principles – throughout the semester. And among all of the students in this course, Suzanne stood out as being a skillful and responsive communicator. Not only did she regularly keep in touch with me via email or discussion, to ensure that her work and discussions were on-track and above par, but she also was an excellent communicator with her peers. Both my co-instructor and myself consistently noticed that Suzanne was one of the best and most engaged participants in every discussion (in a course with multiple discussions and a high level of engagement, she stood out in the crowd as first-rate). In whole-class and small group discussions alike, Suzanne was adept at thoughtful discussion of the course content, as well as providing supportive responses to her peers that blended positive feedback with helpful suggestions.

As you can see throughout the many opportunities that I had to interact with Suzanne during the course, I was very impressed with her and her work. Within a group of high performing Master's level students and educational practitioners Suzanne's efforts stood out as exceptional. As we said in the final feedback that we provided to her at the end of the semester:

In your particular case Suzanne (and for just a couple of other exceptional students in the course) we would like to award you a little something we call "The Golden 4.0". That is just to say, that within a group of students that overall did good work -- you stood out even more as going above and beyond to excel. Not only was every project and lab exceptionally well done, but you also were a particularly well engaged, helpful, thoughtful and supportive participant in every single



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discussion. The "Golden 4.0" is not something that MSU recognizes on any transcripts (a regular 4.0 is all the transcripts will be able to show). But we, as instructors, wanted to be able to give a special nod of acknowledgement to just a few people who not only worked hard, but also stood out and excelled. You made our job as instructors all the more fun -- so thank you.

This 817 course on design is taught in our Masters of Educational Technology program, and it puts an emphasis on design thinking processes directed at educational practices. Since it has an intense workload with a great deal of discussion and collaborative work, it is often a difficult course for students, demanding attention to sophisticated ideas and their instantiation through open-ended class projects. As an instructor I have high expectations for the types of products and artifacts that students will create for each activity. Ms. Reinhardt's work consistently exceeded all expectations, and in every project she clearly put in a great deal of time and effort into doing detailed and high quality work. She is exactly the type of committed, enthusiastic and dedicated student that I hope for in every class. She contributed immensely to the class discussions and positive learning environment, particularly in working collaboratively, communicating thoughtfully, and in dealing with issues of design, technology and education.

I am pleased to give my high recommendation to Ms. Reinhardt. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me at [henrikse@msu.edu](mailto:henrikse@msu.edu) or at the contact information noted.

Sincerely,



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