

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Department of Sociology
McElhane Hall, Room 102
441 North Walk
Indiana, Pennsylvania 15705-1018

724-357-2730
Fax: 724-357-4842
Internet: <http://www.iup.edu/sociology/>

May 21, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

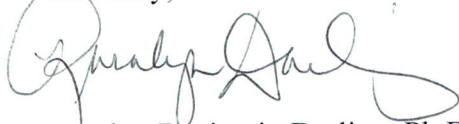
As I will be retiring soon, I am writing this general letter of reference for Tracy Peterchak, who was my graduate assistant during the past academic year. During my 14 years at IUP, Tracy was one of the best graduate assistants I have had. Most of her work for me involved reading and grading student papers, primarily in a course on Contemporary Social Problems. She generally read over 50 papers each week, assessed them appropriately, and returned them in a timely manner. Her ability to accurately assess student papers increased over time, and after a few months I no longer needed to regularly review her work; I was confident in her analytical ability. I have had this level of confidence in only two or three of my assistants over the course of my career. Tracy also very competently maintained grading records and analyzed data from class projects.

In addition to having Tracy as a graduate assistant, I was privileged to have her as a student in my graduate seminar, Society and the Individual. In this course, she wrote three excellent papers, and I was impressed with her intelligence and analytical ability. On one paper in particular, I gave her a grade of A+/A, the best grade I assigned to any student paper in the course. Tracy is a serious student who thinks deeply about sociological ideas and asks good questions. Her writing is of high quality and shows considerably more intellectual maturity than that of most other graduate students I have encountered during my years at IUP.

I would recommend Tracy for any academic position without hesitation. Although she still needs to gain some confidence in her own abilities, I believe that she will be a fine scholar, who will make important contributions to the field of sociology. Tracy also would be a good colleague. She is a hard worker, who is more than willing to take responsibility for any tasks that are assigned to her. She has a pleasant personality and is able to interact well with both students and faculty members.

I hope that Tracy will receive the highest consideration for any doctoral program, teaching or research position, or other academic opportunity for which she may apply. I believe that she has the ability to be successful in whatever sociological career path she may choose.

Sincerely,



Rosalyn Benjamin Darling, Ph.D.
Professor