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Monday, November 30, 2009

Dear Admissions Committee,

On behalf Roy Chan, I write this letter of recommendation for his graduate application to Stanford University's Masters in Education program. Roy is currently a volunteer teacher for WorldTeach at a key middle school in Hunan province, China. Middle schools in China encompass the equivalent to 6-12th grades in U.S. education.

WorldTeach is a non-profit organization headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Its key mission is to "provide opportunities for people to make meaningful contributions to international education by living and working as volunteer teachers in developing countries." Currently, WorldTeach runs programs in fifteen countries, bringing English education to countries all over the world.

In this year's WorldTeach China program, there are sixty-six volunteer teachers. The volunteers arrived in early August, and they completed a three-week in-country orientation, which consisted of TEFL training, a teaching practicum, cross-cultural lessons, language classes, and additional preparation for individual field sites. Field staff spent extensive time getting to know all the volunteers during this time. After orientation, field staff has continued to provide support and visit all volunteers at their schools.

In these last few months, I have become better acquainted with Roy Chan both as a teacher and as an individual. What strikes me as Roy's strongest asset is his constant willingness to contribute to his school community and his dedicated work ethic. Of all of this year's volunteers, Roy has the largest teaching load (twenty-eight classes per week). He continually challenges himself as a teacher by coming up with more interactive and creative lessons to engage his fifty to sixty student sized classes. Roy has an energetic and upbeat teaching style. He encourages his students to actively participate. It is an understatement to say that Roy is a person who does not give up easily.

I strongly believe Roy's current teaching experience in China, as well as several of his past international experiences give him a unique perspective on international education, especially Asian education. In our interactions, it is clear to me that he is passionate about global education. For these reasons, I recommend Roy as a candidate for your masters program.

If you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate contacting me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Lin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Teresa Lin
Assistant Field Director
WorldTeach China