



Middlebury

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Dear Ms. Cairns and Members of the Standards Board,

On behalf of the Middlebury College Education Studies Program, I write to submit our two-year ROPA report. Reviewers can find the link to our report and all evidence here: [Middlebury College Two-Year Review](#). I will also include the link in an e-mail correspondence. Beyond speaking to the specific ROPA concerns (which can be found in the link), I want to draw your attention to several aspects of the program of which I am particularly proud.

- 1.) Our colleague, Christina Johnston, who we hired after our colleague, Claudia Cooper, retired, has been excellent, and her creative work deserves recognition. In her two years with us, Christina has transformed our Secondary Methods sequence, taken over our Elementary Science Methods program, led the partnership between ACSD and Middlebury College, and taken over the helm of our Professional Semester Seminar.
- 2.) The COVID pandemic brought a myriad of challenges in ensuring our students had the necessary field placements and robust student teaching experiences while abiding by the COVID protocol of the state, the schools, and our campus. It was not an easy balancing act. To do so, we adapted all of our Methods classes so that our students could participate remotely in classrooms throughout Addison County. We also adjusted our student teaching placements from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021 and prepared our student teachers to pivot from in-person to remote instruction. The flexibility of our students, the dedication of our faculty, and the remarkable resilience of our local teachers inspire me.
- 3.) In our ROPA approval letter, the review team noted our program's dedication to equity, antiracism, and social justice. That remains the core of what we do and how we prepare our future teachers. Our local school partners continue to reach out to our faculty to invite our students and us to work with schools on antiracist faculty development and ongoing equity work. It is rewarding to see our students' powerful lessons with our community partner schools to engage inclusive antiracist practices meaningfully.
- 4.) When the ROPA team first visited, our Education Studies Major was just emerging. We now have a vibrant program that attracts diverse and engaged future educators. We are excited to see that the racial and ethnic diversity of our program continues to grow.

We in the Education Studies Program are excited about the successes and strengths of our program. We are grateful for the thoughtful feedback of the ROPA team and are pleased that we could address many of their concerns despite being in a pandemic. We are upbeat about the future of the EDST program. Students commit to the challenge of becoming exceptional, well-prepared Middlebury

teachers by choosing the double major option. Students are filling seats in all of our electives because they believe that what EDST offers- matters. We welcome the opportunity to work with colleagues in our local school district to make our Addison Central Middlebury Partnership a source of unique prospects for Middlebury students and a hub of IB and antiracist teacher professional development for teachers. We continue to offer K-12 teacher licensure and a myriad of other courses. Thank you for your patience, guidance, and insight throughout this process. Please let me know if you or anyone from the Standards Review team has any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tara L. Affolter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Tara L. Affolter
Associate Professor
Director, Education Studies Program

CC/cc