

March 20, 2010

Dear ED-201 Student,

As a fellow pre-service educator, I would like to congratulate you on choosing one of the most rewarding careers. The experiences you will encounter with students will last a lifetime. As you probably already know, teaching is one of the most challenging professions, but it is also one of the most rewarding professions. There is a magnificent feeling when you connect with a child or see that ray of hope in their eyes. “No man can be a good teacher unless he has feelings of warm affection toward his pupils and a genuine desire to impart to them what he believes to be of value” (Bertrand Russell).

It has been a great journey so far in my educational career. As I look back on my own experiences in ED 201, I remember being overwhelmed with the Alverno “lingo”. For instance, the Alverno Abilities. They consist of five diverse outlooks towards meeting the needs of the students as individual learners. They are the backbone to teaching! The abilities focus on conceptualization, diagnosis, coordination, communication and integrative interaction. I was also introduced to the teaching standards and learned how to focus on content, growth and collaboration. ED-201 was a turning point in my education and the first step to becoming a competent qualified teacher. I had no doubt in my mind that teaching was my calling.

The *Wisconsin Model Academic Standards* and the *Wisconsin Standards for Teacher Development and Licensure* work collaboratively for the benefits of teachers and students. These standards are a set of guidelines for teacher instruction that focus on the objectives we want students to obtain by each grade level. As you begin lesson planning, you will use these standards for grade-appropriate and content appropriate guidelines. They are the foundation for all teachers in order to be a highly qualified educator. The abilities and standards help aid me in

my own instruction and development as a pre-service teacher. The more you use them, the more comfortable you will become with them. I have applied the standards and abilities in my lesson plans, logs, reflections and assessments. They are used to achieve my objective and overall goal.

I wish you the best of luck as you embark on your educational journey at Alverno. Before you know it you will be student-teaching. Take the time now to absorb all the knowledge you can in order to be the best teacher you can.

Best of Luck!

Autumn Rieger  
[Graduating Class of 2010]