



## **Standard 2: Educators are role models who act ethically and honestly.**

1. The chosen evidence is a letter of reference from Dr. Nadine Cruickshanks. Dr. Cruickshanks was my instructor for a class entitled Social Justice Issues in Education. She was also my pod mentor during the Fall semester of 2015 for the Breaking Barriers in Education inquiry-based program. Under the mentorship of Dr. Cruickshanks, our group of EDPB students from the Cowichan Valley area met many times a week to present the results of our inquiry questions, exchange ideas in a Book Club format and work on a Community Action Project. In her letter, Dr. Cruickshanks outlines my professional attributes and my strong work ethics. She also mentions that I role-modeled courageous initiative and professional integrity.

2. I chose this evidence in relation to Standard 2 because I learned a lot about professionalism during the Breaking Barriers in Education semester. Working in a small group under the pressure of very short deadlines was challenging. I learned a lot about my personal triggers and practiced ways to communicate with others with respect even when we disagreed. I learned that I didn't have to convince other people who did not agree with me and to embrace the beauty in the different perspectives that each of us brought to the table. When a small amount of dissatisfied students from our program decided to voice their negative opinion about the semester, I chose to role-model professionalism and positive feedback by suggesting that our cohort write a thank you card to the teachers who were taking risks in changing the way our program was being delivered.

During my inquiry project on Social Justice, I chose to role-model thinking outside the box and risk-taking: I took a different look at Nature Deficit Disorder by choosing to learn from nature instead of learning from literature. It took a lot of courage to communicate my inquiry process and its unique findings to my group and my instructor but I considered that, by doing so, I was being authentic and acting with integrity. I believe that it is important, as teacher, to question received ideas and to explore novel avenues that can lead to better social and environmental justice. This kind of leadership is necessary if we are to make necessary changes in the education system.

3. This learning standard is important to me as a new teacher because, I will be given a position of privilege and authority in society. As a result, I have a duty to act as a role-model and to always act ethically and honestly. I understand that students will do what I do, not what I say. It is important that I "walk the talk", acting with integrity whether on or off duty. I intend to maintain respectful relationships with everybody and to celebrate diversity in my classroom, modeling acceptance and respect to all

students. I also think it is crucial to be an active and responsible citizen outside the school, taking part in local initiatives that make positive change for our community and its environment.