

Molly Gildea
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Rochester, New York 14607

Dear _____,

I would like to apply for a part time teaching position in secondary science. I believe the breadth and depth of my academic science education coupled with my extensive field and lab research experience will make me an effective educator.

I am comfortable with all age levels, and am certified in 7th through 12th grade biology. I will have a Master of Science in Teaching and Curriculum and a New York state secondary biology certification from the University of Rochester (UR), Warner School in September, 2011. In 2012, I will add a fifth and sixth extension. I have student taught both middle and high school science courses and volunteered for 50 hours in fifth and sixth grade classes and 200 hours in a middle/high school. All experiences were in the Rochester City School District.

At Northwest College Preparatory School, I taught four weeks of honors and inclusion Living Environment as well as Advanced Placement environmental science. At School of the Arts, for eight weeks I taught eighth grade science, honors and inclusion. In both placements, I taught genetics. In my eight week placement I developed an innovative unit on evolution that involved a variety of pedagogical methods, including inquiry and independent research. In my four week placement, I created inquiry activities about homeostasis/the endocrine system and DNA. Prior to attending the UR Warner School on a National Science Foundation scholarship, I taught an introductory lab course at the UR and a lecture / lab course on evolution and biodiversity at Finger Lakes CC.

My interest in education has been evident throughout my life. In high school I taught art in a YMCA after school children's program. As an undergraduate at Berkeley, I worked as an outdoor educator, assisted in a remedial reading program, and developed and implemented two after-school environmental education programs (kindergarten through 4th grade and high school levels). In graduate school, I led educational field trips around the University of Washington fish hatchery.

En route to my teaching certification, I earned a bachelor of science degree at the University of California, Berkeley where I studied biochemistry, genetics, physiology, natural history, and developmental biology, but emphasized ecological processes. I earned a Master of Science in Aquatic and Fisheries Science at the University of Washington and completed all required coursework for a Doctor of Philosophy in Evolution at the University of Rochester. I have worked extensively in basic biological research to guide management, restoration, and conservation decisions.

I hope my passion for biology and extensive research experience will inspire students. Lab and field experiments that challenge the students' creativity can make learning fun and can help to nurture and maintain their interest in biology as well as academics in general. Making the subject of biology relevant to the students lives and careers by framing the lessons in context will make things easier to remember and more interesting to learn. Bringing the lecture back to questions like "How does this biological fact or issue affect your daily life?" "How does it affect the world?" How can you use the knowledge in the future?" will keep students from getting lost in the details and focus on the big picture. Teaching science also provides an opportunity to teach the students to communicate persuasively through writing and presentations.

I hope that my background meets your requirements and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,