August 9th, 2019

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing in support of Dr. Natalie Mountjoy, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Western Kentucky University (WKU). I have known Dr. Mountjoy for two years, over which time she supervised my role as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) and supported my Master's thesis research.

As a GTA for three laboratory sections of BIOL 123: Evolution, Diversity & Ecology under the direction of Dr. Mountjoy, I quickly realized how invested she was in teaching. While shadowing her lab sections and attending lab meetings on a weekly basis, I saw that Dr. Mountjoy was committed to providing engaging and effective learning experiences for students. She was always prepared and maintained a very professional, yet approachable, demeanor. Dr. Mountjoy's knowledge and enthusiasm about the subject material created an overall positive environment in the classroom. I appreciated Dr. Mountjoy's willingness to listen to the GTA's feedback about each lab and incorporate our ideas to ensure the labs ran smoothly for everyone. It was truly a pleasure working under her direction.

Furthermore, on numerous occasions, Dr. Mountjoy sacrificed her time to brainstorm and talk through ideas with me regarding my thesis. Although not a member of my committee, Dr. Mountjoy was genuinely interested and willing to help with my project. She let me borrow her personal textbooks, reviewed drafts of my thesis questionnaire, and assisted with statistical analyses. Her advice and support were invaluable and much appreciated.

Dr. Mountjoy was instrumental to my success as a graduate student in the Biology department and I have no doubt that she will continue to have a positive impact on many other students at WKU. I sincerely hope that her efforts are rewarded.

Sincerely,

Lauren McCaslin