



March 21, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privilege to be writing on behalf of Ms. Patricia "Trix" Bruce. During the Spring of 2010 I had the honor of working with Ms. Bruce as she provided instruction to my American Sign Language classes in Las Vegas, Nevada. Be it known, I was not sure how my students would accept the material that was going to be presented, as they were unsure of their abilities and they had little contact with Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

From the moment she entered the room, Ms. Bruce had engaged my students. She had the students, some of which felt uncomfortable with their signing, up and moving and having a great time. Ms. Bruce had opened up her program to our Deaf and Hard of Hearing students as well, which additionally provided those students with a peer that they were able to relate to.

Ms. Bruce is accepting of all, either it be students just starting out or those with a wealth of knowledge, it did not matter to her. To quote a student, "she had so much emotion; you could tell she was happy to be there with us. Also, she wouldn't just tell us how to sign something, she would explain it to us then make a whole story about it just out of one word."

For some students this was their first exposure to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing worlds. Although they have been engaged in American Sign Language since the beginning of the school year, they have not yet had the opportunity to meet and speak with those who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. As this school is large in scale, opportunities for the students to engage with each other are limited to passing period or lunch. With Ms. Bruce's presentation, the students received first hand experience on how to effectively interact with other.

Ms. Bruce did more than just teach us how to sign, but she taught the students how to live without fear. She taught us that regardless of ability, or disability, as is the case for some, we are all the same. We should embrace our lives and enjoy the time we have and fear for nothing.

To once again quote a student, "If I had to choose between having Trix Bruce come back to the class and having a total free day of just talking with friends, I would pick Trix Bruce any day!" That is what her presence in my class did for my students. Her heartwarming and engaging lessons taught acceptance and instilled creativity as well as acceptance of others. Her lessons encouraged my students to believe that anything is possible. For this reason I feel that having her in an ASL class is an asset to any program.

Sincerely,

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