



January 27,2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support for Ms. Andrea Sonnier who is seeking to advance to candidacy in the PhD in Critical Studies in the Education of Deaf Learners. Ms. Sonnier was my student Spring 2016 in EDU 731 Home, School, and Community Collaboration for Diverse Learners. Additionally, she and I have spent a number of hours in conversation and discussion related to issues in the education of diverse deaf and hard of hearing students.

In my class, Ms. Sonnier demonstrated the ability to apply critical theory to a wide range of topics. She produced assignments that showed reflection on many levels, extending her analyses far beyond the text. She has learned through her studies how her personal experience and lived experiences map onto theories that she encounters. She is eager and open to new learning at every step. Her abilities extend to examining the socio-political context of education, language and literacy learning by deaf diverse learners, the ability to interact respectfully with others and express other perspectives while always maintaining a professional and compassionate demeanor. She promotes social justice, while supporting her position with data, and research, as well as calling on theoretical arguments. She is in the position to argue for improving education for Black Deaf students not only using her lived experience as a Black Deaf individual and teacher of the deaf, but through citing sources, studies, and data.

I believe that Ms. Sonnier possesses the potential to make contributions to the field of deaf education, particularly in her area of interest. But I also believe she has the ability to go beyond that and realize much more.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Gerner de Garcia*

Barbara Gerner de García, Ed.D.