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School of Education
University of New England

Student Intern: Quinn Weaver

Self-analysis of internship completed by student teacher intern

Evaluation of one's professional performance is a continual process. In order to reflect on progress and future direction, each student teacher intern is asked to respond to three questions. Your responses, your resume, your autobiography (Dear PERB Panelists, and your philosophy statement will be shared with the PERB panel to which you are assigned.

Include the following information:

Quinn Weaver
Young school
2nd grade
Keilly Lunch
Carole Marcotte

1. Learning Experience: One of the most important lessons I have learned is the value of building strong, trusting relationships with students. I have seen firsthand that students are more willing to engage, take risks, and learn when they feel safe, respected, and supported. This has reinforced my belief that teaching goes far beyond delivering content; it requires connection, empathy, and consistency. Understanding concepts like Maslow's hierarchy of needs has helped me recognize that students must have their basic emotional and physical needs met before they can fully focus on learning. Additionally, my internship has allowed me to develop and refine my classroom management skills. I have learned how to create a structured and positive learning environment by setting clear expectations, being proactive, and using

consistent routines. These strategies have helped me maintain a classroom where students can stay focused and feel secure. I have also grown in my ability to design and deliver instruction that meets the needs of diverse learners. By incorporating principles of Universal Design for Learning, I strive to make lessons accessible and engaging for all students. I have learned that when lessons are interactive, creative, and relevant, students are more likely to retain information and stay motivated. Reflecting on this experience, I now understand that being a teacher means being adaptable, patient, and reflective. It means continuously learning and adjusting to meet the needs of each student. A teacher is not only an educator, but also a mentor, role model, and advocate. This internship has confirmed my passion for teaching and has prepared me to continue growing into an effective and compassionate educator.

2. Professional development: One area I want to keep growing in is classroom management. As I move into having my own classroom, I know how important it is to clearly set expectations, stay consistent, and keep lessons running at a strong pace. I've noticed that I still need to build confidence when it comes to redirecting students and using proactive strategies to prevent disruptions so that I can make the most of instructional time and maintain a focused environment. I understand that this is something that improves with experience, reflection, and support, and I feel confident that I will continue to grow in this area. At the beginning of my teaching experience, I didn't get the chance to fully see how Responsive Classroom practices are used to build routines, expectations, and community, especially during those first few weeks of school. I now recognize how important that time is for setting the tone for the entire year. Moving forward, I want to be intentional about establishing clear routines and consistently reinforcing expectations so that students feel supported and are held accountable throughout the year.
3. Strength: what strengths are you bringing to the profession that are more apparent to you now as you complete your student teacher internship?

One strength I have developed is my ability to build strong relationships and meaningful connections with students. I have learned that every student is unique, and by taking the time to understand their interests and who they are as individuals, I can show them that I care about more than just their academic performance. This helps create a supportive and positive classroom environment where students feel valued. Throughout my internship, I have also gained confidence in my ability to connect with and reach my students in ways that support both their learning and personal growth. Another strength I bring to the profession is my willingness to learn. Throughout my student teaching experience, I've had to adjust lessons, think on my feet, and respond to the

different needs of my students. I've become more comfortable taking feedback and using it to improve my teaching. I am open to trying new strategies and reflecting on what works and what doesn't, which helps me grow and better support my students.