



April 15, 2011

TO: School of Education Awards Committee  
FROM: Curriculum and Instruction Area, Denise Johnson, Coordinator  
Faculty—Lori Korinek and Patricia Popp  
RE: The 2011 Lady Thatcher Award for Scholarship, Character, and Service

The Curriculum and Instruction Area wishes to nominate Christine Ammirati as the 2011 Recipient of the Lady Thatcher Award for the School of Education. As a Master's student with an emphasis in Elementary Education and an additional endorsement to teach English as a Second Language, Ms. Ammirati truly embodies the characteristics represented by this award and the qualities that the School of Education seeks to develop in its graduates.

### **Scholarship**

Christine Ammirati's scholarship is evidenced by her 4.0 GPA in her Master's studies and perfect scores on her Praxis II in Elementary Education (200/200), the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (600/600), and Graduate Record Exam (GRE)—Verbal (800/800) and exceptional scores on the Virginia Reading Assessment (280/300) and the GRE—Mathematics (730/800). She completed her undergraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating Magna Cum Laude from a dual degree program with a B.S. degree in Economics with a major in International Business, and a B.A. degree in Asian Studies. She is a member of the College of William and Mary's chapter of the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society for education professionals.

Ms. Ammirati was nominated by Elementary Education faculty to represent our program at the Teachers of Promise Institute this spring in recognition of her outstanding performance in the program. In her graduate classes, Christine is always well prepared, highly participatory, and insightful in her comments; her assignments are exemplary and reflect her strong analytical skills, keen intelligence, and pedagogical skills. Her stellar coursework and performance in her field placement also reflect her commitment and dedication to the teaching profession, her genuine concern for her students, and a desire to provide them with the best possible education.

Christine Ammirati has demonstrated the ability to translate theory into practice in the classroom, assessing and meeting the individual needs of her students. She is deeply reflective in her teaching and in her scholarship, always seeking to improve her understanding and best apply what she is learning to practice. She also brings two years of international teaching experience in Beijing, China, and seems to be particularly sensitive to the needs of diverse learners of all types.

### **Character**

Positive, open, collegial, organized, responsible, professional, talented, and gracious are traits that come to mind when describing Christine Ammirati. She demonstrates strength and integrity along with a highly collaborative style and an ability to incorporate the ideas of colleagues,

students, and families into decision-making and problem-solving. Her warm and caring nature allows her to create trusting relationships with children, families, and colleagues. As one of the more experienced students in her program, she shows respect and support for her less experienced classmates and genuine enthusiasm for their ideas and success. She seems too humble to see herself as their role model, but she does set a wonderful example of openness, optimism, collegiality, and hard work. Prior to entering her Master's program in Elementary Education, Christine held a variety of leadership positions related to education, and will no doubt quickly emerge as a teacher-leader once she graduates. In short, Christine exhibits the key dispositions we seek in highly effective teachers and colleagues.

### **Service**

Christine Ammirati embodies the spirit of service represented by the Lady Thatcher Award with her rich history of service and leadership in support of schools. She was the director of the Rock Spring Cooperative Preschool in Arlington, VA, for 9 years during which she was responsible for supervising and training staff, communicating with families, and managing day-to-day operations. She has also served as the Professional Development and Conference Chair for the Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers (3 years); as Treasurer, Secretary, and Fundraising Chair for the Williamsburg Middle School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) (6 years); as President and Fundraising Chair for PS 183's PTA in Manhattan, NY (2 years); and Chair and Secretary for the Hong Kong Preschool Playgroup Association (4 years). Time after time she has offered her skills and services to help support various schools' efforts and success. Her involvement, service, and leadership in these capacities will be a tremendous asset as she continues her career as an elementary educator.

The faculty in the Curriculum and Instruction area enthusiastically endorses Christine Ammirati for the Lady Thatcher Award for Scholarship, Character, and Service. Her accomplishments and dispositions make her a most worthy nominee and representative of this award, the College, and the School of Education.