Dear Principal,

My name is Jennifer Figueroa Hogan and I am interested in joining your faculty family.

My career at Aldine began some years ago as an Inclusion aide at Reed Academy. Prior to that, my only experience with the intermediate age group had been via leadership opportunities with religious organizations in my hometown. By the end of my first year in education, I knew 2 things:
#1. I loved these kids!
#2. Teaching is not for the faint of heart.
#3. This is what I was meant to do!

It took me a few years, but I did it! I got my degree, I joined an alternate certification program, and I reached out to the same district that mentored, taught me, and prepared me, Aldine ISD.

At Hoffman Middle School I was able to complete one full year as an AEA long term substitute. I was able to really submerge myself into not just the teaching component, but student/parent relationships, as well as understanding the cultural complexities that come with educating families of diverse backgrounds. I was even able to understand the immigration process as I felt the need to understand what my students and families were going through.

AEA exposed me to diverse populations; As a new arrival myself, I knew what it felt like to come to a country, not understand the language, and adapt to a new way of life. Because of this personal connection, I sought out absent students via home visits, met with parents, created a list of resources available to help families, and made every effort to communicate and make myself available to my students.

During my most recent internship experience, my school felt the aches of COVID and how it impacted the ELA department in terms of staffing. I accepted an opportunity to transfer and teach 8th grade EL's. I immediately went from 11 students in AEA, to 110 students, both face to face and virtual. The challenge suddenly became very real when I was given 13 rosters, and 45 virtual students who had not been participating in virtual learning. I made it my mission to find each of my virtual students, spoke with parents, figured out solutions to their lack of participation and poor attendance. I was able to persuade many to come back on campus as they became failure risks and having a dedicated teacher gave them confidence. As a new 1st year teacher, I was a Rookie Of The Year (ROY) runner up, participated in the Accelerated Learning Academy via Edgenuity and successfully assisted 24 students in obtaining recovery credits.

Regarding my credentials, I will hold the following certifications: ELAR 4-8, ESL Supp., and STR prior to the beginning of our upcoming school year 2021-2022. I stand by what I can contribute to your team and what I can invest into our Aldine students. Additionally, I look forward to working with a mentor that can help me grow my knowledge. Please consider me as you search for a dedicated ELA/ESL teacher. As I am experienced in 8th grade ELA and the Wit & Wisdom curriculum I'd prefer to remain in that role, however, please know that I am flexible.

Cordially,

Jennifer Figueroa Hogan