

July 8, 2026

Re: Observation / Letter of Recommendation PED 308

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Ethan and his work as a lecturer in the Physical Education Department at SUNY Cortland. I have had the opportunity to work with Ethan both as a colleague in the department and through PED 308, where he first began his work with SUNY Cortland as an instructor.

Before joining SUNY Cortland, Ethan was a full-time physical education teacher with extensive experience working with youth and in outdoor settings. This background has served him extremely well in his work with physical education majors. Through teaching PED 308, Ethan quickly discovered his strong ability to connect with college students while drawing on his practical experience with youth, teaching, and outdoor education. His success in that role ultimately led him to seek out a lecturer position, where he has continued to grow and contribute meaningfully to our program.

One of Ethan's greatest strengths is his ability to build authentic relationships with young adults. He cares deeply about students, meets them where they are, and creates a learning environment where they feel seen and supported. At the same time, he maintains clear expectations and holds students accountable for their growth and responsibilities as future professionals. This balance of care, connection, and accountability is a significant asset in teacher education.

Ethan is also highly adaptable and flexible in both team-based teaching situations and in responding to student needs. In PED 308, he has demonstrated a strong ability to work collaboratively, adjust to changing circumstances, and contribute positively to the overall learning experience. He excels in reflective and experiential teaching, helping students learn not only through content but also through doing, processing, and applying their experiences.

Ethan completed his first year at SUNY Cortland with great success. He brings warmth, professionalism, practical teaching experience, and a genuine commitment to student development. I value him as a colleague and believe he has already made a meaningful impact on our students and our department.

Sincerely,

Helena Baert

Dr. H. Baert, PhD.
Professor
Physical Education Department
Helena.baert@cortland.edu