

September 1, 2026

To the Personnel Committee:

I have had the opportunity to work with and observe Ethan Pettengill teaching during PED 308 – Outdoor Adventure Education for Teachers on several occasions. Most recently, June 14-27, 2026, and August 2-15, 2026. During these sessions, I observed Ethan as a well-prepared, knowledgeable, and personable teacher. He anticipates needs of the course, the coordinator, and other staff members and makes himself available to help with any problems that may arise.

As the administrator of the outdoor education program, I have hired Mr. Pettengill to teach at several different camps over the last three summers. As a teacher he is always well-prepared and informed about the teaching sessions he leads. He is engaging and interacts with all students to make the content relevant and interesting. He consistently connects content to his prior experiences as a physical education teacher and helps students make those connections as well.

Mr. Pettengill's ability to connect with students is unmatched. The interpersonal commitment he makes to his students contributes to an open and caring environment when he is teaching. As a trip leader, he is very aware of the organization required when preparing a group, he is punctual with paperwork and able to solve problems when needed, rather than asking for solutions. His CTE's are typically positive, but Mr. Pettengill is always willing to hear and welcomes feedback from both students and other staff. He is a reflective teacher who shows his desire to keep growing in the field.

Having had the opportunity to observe and work with Mr. Pettengill as an instructor for PED 308, I am confident in his abilities as a teacher. He is extremely dedicated to his students and the profession. Mr. Pettengill is a positive influence in the physical education department and a positive force in the department.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me: 607-227-9382.

Sincerely,

Kate Hovey, Ed.D.
Assistant Professor
katherine.hovey@cortland.edu
607-753-4774(o) 607-227-9383(c)

