



## **Peer Review of Dr. Jennifer Groman 11/09/2018**

Submitted by Dr. Cathryn Chappell, Columbus Center

### **EDIS 650 Talent Development Nature & Needs Course**

#### **Review and Share Whole Class**

I observed Dr. Groman's class for a face-to-face session of a hybrid course. She began the night with announcements and then asked for folks to share Good News. Several students shared personal and professional "good news" and students commented and were receptive to the positive things people brought up. She had the room arranged in a circle so that everyone could interact with everyone else. She provided me with a stack of articles that the students had read in preparation for the evening.

Dr. Groman reviewed some key points of the articles. One discussion surrounded the concept of eminence – a term I was not familiar within the area of gifted education. Essentially it is tied to a person's ability to take their giftedness or talents, and develop them to the point of something like self-actualization. I always appreciate learning and felt like another student in the class! Students discussed this topic and others with a relaxed sense of safety and comfort in the course. They shared their take on the articles and drew from their own experiences with children in their classrooms to illustrate concepts.

Grit and resilience were topics of interest as well as discussions about how to help students foster these qualities. Several told anonymous stories about their students and it was obvious that these teachers wanted to do everything they could to help them achieve in life. They all agreed that the real life circumstances of their students made this an up-hill climb.

#### **Upcoming Assignment**

The students were in the midst of working on their own Case Study assignments. Dr. Groman walked them through their data collection and several students asked in-depth questions

about this upcoming project. Dr. Groman also offered tips, help, and links to APA resources. Students were excited to share what they had gathered already and Dr. Groman agreed to allow them to send parts of their work to her ahead of time. That way she could provide feedback and guidance to help them be as thorough as possible.

The time in the classroom went very quickly. The ease of the discussion and the interest and interesting stories of the students made for a lively course without clock watching! I felt as though the care and concern of Dr. Groman for her students was evident. The flow of the class was smooth and it certainly took on the feel of a group of scholars sharing their work. The only thing that I felt was missing was some sort of agenda for the evening. Without knowing what was to be covered and discussed, students may have cut their comments or questions short thinking that there was much more to do. Other than that, I think it was a great evening and I applaud Dr. Groman's comfort and expertise with her subject and her students.

*Cathryn A. Chappell*

Cathryn A. Chappell, Ed. D.

Associate Professor, Doctoral Studies and Advanced Programs

Director of Quality Assurance & Accreditation

Ashland University

