Courtney Painton

Observation Notes (4th period HS Spanish I)

2/25/15

**Domain 1: Planning and Preparation** (content knowledge, knowledge of students, knowledge of standards, goal setting)

\*Learning activities were designed to solidify and build on previous instruction: recognition and use of vocabulary words from previously taught story.

\*Strong content knowledge: As you are building your own units based on ACTL standards, you are doing a good job of determining important content and what learners should exit knowing. You teach accordingly.

\*You know your students well. An example of things is that native speakers are grouped in a manner that allows them to be resources for students who have no prior experience with Espanol.

**Domain 2: Classroom Environment** (mutual respect, culture for learning, managing procedures, managing behavior, safety)

\*You greeted students by name as they entered the classroom and chatted with individuals before class started. Shows interest in students’ lives beyond their classroom time with you. You asked several of the wrestlers about the headbands they were wearing (wrestling team building/recognition?).

\*You are a master at managing procedures and transition times: “You will have 3 minutes to work on this. . . “ and you follow through when time is up.

\*As students were working with partners, there was a slight disturbance with several girls in the back of the room. Using your “teacher eyes” you responded immediately in a very respectful way, “Ladies. . . is everything ok over here?”

Good job on using wait time after your listening cue. Students reminded each other to be quiet “Shhhh”. Makes you the good cop☺!

*I know that I have said this many times before, but I am always impressed by your teacher instincts that respectfully allow students to maintain their dignity, as you encourage appropriate behaviors.*

*Something to think about might be to designate a “back pocket activity” for students to work on as they finish their work (especially when students are finishing tasks at different times). This might help eliminate “chit chat” that tends to distract and interrupt learning for those still working.*

**Domain 3: Instruction** (communication skills, questioning/discussion techniques, student engagement, feedback, responsiveness)

\*You had the group correct the Bell Ringer work together. This gave students instant feedback on how they did.

\*Extremely high student engagement as students role played/acted out the story from earlier in the week. You retold the story in Spanish as students acted out their parts. *As we debriefed, we discussed the possibility of having a specific student(s) retell the story as other students act it out. You agreed that at this point in the school year, some students would be ready to do this.*

*\**You presented instruction in a variety of ways: visual (role playing); written (partner work w/sentences and short worksheet); and audio (music on screen).

**As usual, Courtney, there were lots of good solid things taking place in your classroom as I observed. Amazing things are happening in your classroom as you build curriculum and deal with limited resources.**

**During our debriefing we talked about the possibility of transitioning into an elementary position. This seems to be where your passion and interest lie and I would encourage you to follow your heart. Let me know how I can support you as you consider your options.**