



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

College of Arts and Sciences

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: C. Angel Lopez

Please accept this letter as a most enthusiastic recommendation for Angel Lopez as a guest speaker. Twice she has spoken to my Psychology of Trauma (Psy 472) class at the University of Oregon, and both times she was a highlight of the course for students. Although Angel spoke near the beginning of term both times, in the end of term evaluations she was still mentioned by many students as having been a favorite part of the course. One student recently wrote to me after a recent lecture from Angel: *"This was probably the most beneficial and meaningful day of class I have ever had in my entire education."*

I've asked Angel to speak for a few reasons and I think she would be a fantastic guest speaker for a variety of courses. Angel can speak about her traumatic experiences in the mental health system and communicate to students who are often naïve about such things, how sometimes well-intentioned services can be damaging. She can also communicate how some service providers, in her own experience, were ill-intentioned and traumatizing. In response to questions about what future therapists should or could do to genuinely help patients, Angel's advice has been both helpful and inspiring. One student posted on our course blackboard site:

*"The first time I heard her (last year) she inspired me to follow my dreams, and right after that class I went and signed up to work with homeless youth from New York city."*

Angel's experience at Ground Zero after 9-11 seems to particularly impact the students. She conveys her experience in a healing and very real way. I've heard her speak to large and small classes, and the class size never seems to diminish the immense emotional impact Angel has had on students. She is moving and inspiring.

Angel's experiences with dissociative identity disorder (DID) and her subsequent acceptance, integration and healing have been immensely powerful for my Trauma class. DID is a concept that seems "out there" for many students. I believe this is largely driven by the portrayal of DID in popular culture with films such as the *Three Faces of Eve* and *Sybil*. Seeing Angel's powerful film and then meeting her in person is effective in shattering these powerful images set by our culture and I'm not sure that we'd be otherwise able to dispel the images that DID is something out of a horror or thriller movie. She demystifies and destigmatizes DID and helps students understand that it is an outcropping from child sexual abuse that actually makes a lot of sense under extreme circumstances.

I highly recommend Angel to you as a fantastically warm individual, who is grounded, spiritual, a moving guest speaker and inspiration to many.

Sincerely,

Lisa DeMarni Cromer, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

1227 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1227 T (541) 346-4921 F (541) 346-4911 [psychweb.uoregon.edu](http://psychweb.uoregon.edu)

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