



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

September 18, 2022

Dear Editor:

Attached is a manuscript (***What is outside the backdoor: Entrepreneurship, Field Experience and Preservice Teachers***) to be considered for publication. The research being submitted is a case study of one preservice teacher, and one entrepreneur master teacher with a focus on the implementation of an exclusively outdoor preschool, and the reflection and growth of a preservice educator.

The research questions directed to the mentor teacher/entrepreneur were (1) when did you start the outdoor school and why (2) what is the structure of the outdoor school (3) what are the requirements of children who attend the outdoor school?

The questions that were specifically addressed to the preservice teacher were (1) how has this experience prepared you for teaching (2) has this experience given you more confidence in teaching and (3) what was the greatest lesson learned during this field experience?

With the passing of SB 5357, an act relating to establishing a pilot project to license outdoor early learning and childcare programs, this research is timely. Washington is the first state in the US to adopt educational act of this kind.

This submission will enhance and engage your readers with insight into how an outdoor school can double the enrollment of an existing preschool, expose young children to environmental and scientific concepts at an early age, and explore innovative field experience opportunities for preservice teachers.

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