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Dr. Kastner

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### **Personal Statement**

Some might say I have led a sheltered life. I am a white female from a Christian home in a relatively middle class area. However, I have been honored to have contact with many groups of people from outside of the United States. My church had a huge group of people from India who were my friends. My Father particularly set an example, going out of his way to become friends with the aforementioned people, and to become close friends with the Indian and Chinese people in his work place. He became the only non-Chinese person on the Chinese Business association board, and he brought us kids along with him to events. Through these people whom I grew up with in a sense, I inherited a deep love for other countries, China in particular. Of late I have begun to feel something that might be a call from God to serve China in some way. I am applying for ELIC's Equip because I want to explore the potential call God has placed in my life for China.

I believe that my particular degree has qualified me for this position. I have been studying theater and music for the past four years. At first glance, a performance degree does not seem to go hand in hand with a teaching position. However, in the theater I have learned how to see people as individuals, to meet them where they are, and to serve others to the best of my ability. Observing acting teachers is a fantastic way to learn these skills, as there is no one formula to get a student to a standard. Acting is about representing a human being, and to do that, you have to understand and love those human beings and to accept yourself where you are at. I have coached some high schoolers in acting and have found, as my mentors always said, that there is no one way to do acting. Each person is different and has

different strengths and weaknesses in their acting. To teach, you have to observe the student and reword and remake your explanations and adapt your strategies for that particular student and there is nothing more gratifying than seeing the student finally understand what you have said and begin to apply it.

It is the same in music. I have had several different voice teachers through the years and have therefore been able to observe several different teaching styles in a one-on-one situation. I have seen things that have worked, and that haven't worked on me. In my lessons if something doesn't click, I try to see how I would reword it to make it make sense to me, and then, if someone outside the Conservatory of music asks me for a coaching, I know how frustrating it can be to have someone use language they cannot understand and I try to adapt to them.

Furthermore, although education is not my major, I believe I would be a good teacher. I first discovered the love of teaching when I was taking geometry in High School. I had previously struggled with math but when we got to Triangle Congruence Proofs something clicked. I was able to do the problems. Then I noticed some other students struggling with the same problems I had had. I immediately set out to help them. Something clicked, and I was able to adapt and explain to them how to understand the math and do the problems. I found that I loved helping my classmates understand as much as I enjoyed seeing the math work out. For the rest of my high school career I became a secondary sort of math teacher. When we were all working on our homework together, I would be the person who would help those who were getting frustrated and often I was asked questions as well as the teacher.

I have also had many other teaching experiences. I helped teach Sunday Schools, tutored students after classes, and worked at Drama camps. I am a regular assistant teacher with the drama program at my old high school, coaching people with acting and lighting and building.

In summary, I believe I would make a good teacher. I have a passion for China and for serving others and would love to be a part of Equip.