



Superintendent of Schools
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February 28, 2012

Ms. Holly Jobe, President
International Society for Technology in Education
1710 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20036

RE: Letter of Support for Kathryn ("Katie") Blunt

Dear Ms. Jobe:

I was delighted to learn that one of our Canyons School District employees, Kathryn (Katie) Blunt, has been nominated for the ISTE Outstanding Young Educator Award for 2012. I am honored to provide this letter of support for Katie.

As the superintendent of a brand new school district, which began independent operations in 2009 serving over 33,000 students in 45 schools, it has been one of my highest priorities to rapidly advance the use of educational technology in our schools and provide unparalleled support to our principals and teachers. Katie has been part of my staff from the beginning, and has played a pivotal role in helping us establish the new district's information technology infrastructure, as well as our educational technology strategies.

Specifically, I want every teacher and student to have access to, understand, and be able to effectively use the ever-increasing array of technological tools available to improve classroom instruction and student achievement. Katie has been a leader among her peers not only in the District office, but also in the schools, to help me and her direct supervisors implement this vision.

Among Katie's many significant accomplishments over the past three years, she has: 1) developed and taught professional development classes on educational technology basics, as well as Web 2.0 tools and applications; 2) produced and published podcast series on YouTube and iTunes U for Sprucewood, Willow Canyon, Willow Springs and Sunrise Elementary Schools; 3) worked with principals and teachers throughout the District to pilot iPod, iPad, and NetBooks projects in the classroom; 4) led a collaborative project with the District's Evidence-Based Learning, Career and Technical Education, and Information Technology Departments to design, train, implement and collect data for a district-wide elementary school keyboarding curriculum; 5) recorded and edited a movie and series of podcasts featuring student athletes from BYU and the University of Utah called "Y Should U Read", to encourage summer reading with Sprucewood Elementary students; 6) assisted in the technical arrangements and broadcasting of communication between astronauts on the International Space Station and sixth grade students at Midvalley Elementary; 7) assisted the District's Evidence-Based Learning Department in teaching trainings on Pearson Successnet to help teachers implement the District's new elementary math curriculum; 8) modeled lessons daily

in every grade and subject area in grades K-6 to help teachers integrate technology into core curriculum; 9) created trainings and documentation to help teachers in their use of Skyward for gradebook, attendance, report cards, and employee access; 10) helped schools write grants for technology purchases; 11) been the co-lead for the Canyons School District Film Festival; 12) planned and taught courses in the new Canyons School District Educational Technology endorsement program for teachers; 13) assisted programmers in the creation and implementation of the new Canyons School District Data Dashboard, that allows teachers and administrators to access and utilize student achievement data in unprecedented ways; and 14) been selected as the 2011 Utah Coalition for Educational Technology (UCET) Young Educator of the Year.

Katie has, together with her colleagues, accomplished all of these things in a very short time and under some very challenging circumstances, as the expectations of parents and employees in the new district have been extremely high and deadlines short. I have had the opportunity to interact personally with Katie on many occasions, and have been very impressed with her positive attitude and exemplary work ethic.

Perhaps most impressively, Katie has a unique way of using good humor and patience to help people overcome their fear of technology, and motivating them to try new things and to learn. Indeed, it was at the encouragement of Katie and some of her colleagues that I decided to explore the use of Twitter and other social media platforms in the District, which has been an incredible learning opportunity for me and provided tremendous communications advantages for the District. Katie is also a very talented singer, and has joined me multiple times to share her talents with District employees.

In short, I am proud to have Katie Blunt on our Canyons School District team, and enthusiastically endorse her nomination for this award. Please feel free to contact my office directly if you have any questions or if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. Doty". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a flourish at the end.

David S. Doty, J.D. Ph.D.
Superintendent