



March 16, 2016

Brilliant, thoughtful, respectful, inclusive, resourceful, and collaborative are a few descriptors that come to mind when I think of Christopher Bryner. Chris is a teacher in the Sitka School District, and I have been honored to be able to work with him for the past six years, as the assistant superintendent and now superintendent of the district.

Last school year the Sitka School District was selected to be 1 of 118 school districts in the nation invited to the *White House Summit on Technology in Education*, and we were further honored to be selected to have our efforts to bring meaningful, technology-enhanced learning to students included in President Obama's comments at the event. I immediately thought of Chris when asked which teachers could the White House Press Office interview to learn about our best projects. During the 45-minute interview, Chris shared many examples of how he is using innovative teaching methods to inspire deep learning in his students, and his classroom activities formed the basis for President Obama's comments about our district. Chris is that teacher who earns respect at all levels for his thoughtful and purposeful learning activities.

Chris embraces life-long learning, and is always searching for ways to improve his practice. Chris has served on the district-wide professional development committee, and has shared his instructional practices with his colleagues on numerous occasions by presenting at our inservices. Additionally, he has requested and received a number of professional development mini-grants to further his exploration in multi-sensory, project-based, technology-enhanced learning that is firmly grounded in social emotional learning and social learning constructs. Chris exemplifies the best of the teaching profession both in his professionalism and in his commitment to embracing information that can help him be the best teacher for his students.

Chris truly is that rare teacher that stands heads and shoulders above his peers of excellent teachers. He is thoughtful and energetic in his work with students, and is a natural teacher leader in the profession. He has earned my highest respect.

Although I am sad to learn that Chris and his family have decided to move out of Alaska, I also know that we have been very fortunate to have Chris as a teacher for our students for the six years. I hope you do not miss the opportunity if you have a chance to hire Chris as a teacher in your district. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you like additional evidence of Chris' excellence and commitment to his students, families, and our learning community.

Sincerely,

Mary Wegner, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Sitka School District

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