

Challand Middle School

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Liz Engstrom, Principal

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Dear Awards Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Bruce Black for the Search for Excellence Award. I have had the distinct privilege of working alongside Bruce for the past eight years. During that time, I have witnessed his unwavering dedication to education, his commitment to student success, and his innovative approaches to curriculum development. His passion for teaching and ability to inspire students and colleagues alike make him truly deserving of this recognition.

Bruce has been instrumental in shaping the direction of the curriculum through the creation of a comprehensive pre- and post-test system that provides invaluable insights into student understanding. This system has become a cornerstone in guiding curriculum adjustments and ensuring that lessons are tailored to meet the needs of all learners. By analyzing post-test data, Bruce identifies areas where students may struggle, and he proactively revisits and refines those lessons to enhance comprehension and engagement. His commitment to data-driven instruction has had a profound impact on student outcomes and curriculum efficacy.

One of the many qualities that set Bruce apart is his responsiveness to student interests and ideas. An excellent example of this occurred when a student expressed curiosity about climate change. Not only did Bruce incorporate this topic into that year's lessons, but he also developed a comprehensive lesson on climate change that has since become a permanent part of the

curriculum. This adaptability demonstrates his commitment to making learning relevant and meaningful for his students.

In the first year of our partnership, it was suggested that more hands-on labs be integrated into the curriculum. Bruce took this suggestion to heart and has since greatly expanded the number of labs, particularly those that engage students through food-related activities. Recognizing that food often captures students' attention, he has thoughtfully incorporated more food labs, fostering both interest and learning. His dedication to enriching the lab experience has also led to the investment in new equipment, including air fryers, to facilitate more dynamic and engaging labs.

Through his continuous reflection on both student feedback and assessment results, Bruce exemplifies the qualities of a truly reflective educator. He is constantly evaluating and refining his instructional practices, ensuring that his lessons not only meet academic standards but also resonate with his students. His ability to take post-test data and adjust lessons accordingly shows a deep commitment to his students' success.

For these reasons and many more, I wholeheartedly recommend Bruce Black for the Search for Excellence Award. His dedication to his students, his innovative approach to curriculum design, and his inspirational leadership make him a standout educator and a valuable asset to our educational community.

Sincerely,
Julie LeFevre

Challand Middle School Agriculture Educator