



HARTFORD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL, BY ALL
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Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Anthony Brooks
Principal

Ms. Vacianna Farquharson
Assistant Principal

Mr. Victor Rivera
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Allison Stroili
Assistant Principal



November 30th 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Richard de Meij in support of his nomination for the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers (CT COLT) Teacher of the Year award. I have worked along side Mr. de Meij for the past 9 years at Hartford Public High School and had the privilege to see him grow professionally during that time.

Mr. de Meij has two qualities that stand out above most teachers I encounter: his passion for education and his researched based decision-making. Richard knows that students become empowered when they learn a new language and develops engaging and meaningful instruction that is rigorous and culturally relevant. It is normal to walk by Mr. de Meij's room and hear music playing and view students singing Spanish while dancing. Students do not just collect information while in Mr. de Meij's classroom but rather become completely immersed in the language learning process. The other trait that stands out is his commitment to instructional methodologies and pedagogy that is grounded in high quality research. Mr. de Meij will often advocate for changes to policies and school structures if research indicates these are not the best practices for student success. He is truly a student-centered educator.

Further, Mr. de Meij continuously focuses on professional growth such as advancing his learning as he pursues a degree in Educational Leadership. He conducts extensive research independently to stay current with educational technologies, practices, and curricula. Mr. de Meij seeks out opportunities to learn new strategies he can incorporate into his instruction including traveling around the world to attend educational workshops.

I have no hesitation to recommend Mr. de Meij as a highly qualified candidate for this position. Please feel free to contact me at (860) 695-1544 if I can offer any more insight into Richard's qualifications for this prestigious award. In advance, thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Allison Stroili

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School Vision: Hartford Public High School is a learner-centered environment where adults and students thrive in an equitable culture of high expectations that comprehensively prepares every student for college and career success.