



Jocelyn Carmen Tamborello-Noble
District Coach English Learner Services and World Languages

November 14, 2018

Dear Member Connecticut Council of Language Teachers,

It is a privilege to write a recommendation letter on behalf of Mr. Richard de Meij, an outstanding World Language Educator. From his roots in Aruba, as a young Afro- Aruban boy, to coming to the U.S. and achieving amazing accomplishments through the American Dream, Richard is an outstanding candidate for this award. Through his instruction, advocacy and actions, Richard is an amazing advocate for the children in Hartford Public Schools.

As a Spanish and French Teacher in Hartford Public Schools Richard provides school oversight of the day-to-day management and support of the World Languages Classroom and Department. In this capacity he creates partnerships, is collaborative with colleagues and is a constantly advocates for students, especially heritage and native speakers to continue with the language. I have known Richard for 8 years and during that time I have found him to be an outstanding representative of Hartford Public Schools. It is my pleasure to nominate him for the Teacher of the Year Award.

Richard as an outstanding instructor, he has an amazing skillset in multicultural education and multi-linguistic sensitivity. He understands the value of language learning and cultural competence. He teaches and learns with equity lens, always thinking of how decisions will impact students and how all students can become bilingual and develop biliteracy skills in a global society. He advocates for all students and programming around World languages, and how to increase programming in both scope and sequence. He advocates for a long sequence of instruction and honors biliteracy from the start.

As Richard advocates for World Languages, he is also a leader in the field and willing to put his effort and energy into district initiatives and align them to World Languages. Richard has been a leader in presenting, organizing and coordinating exemplary professional learning both in and beyond Hartford and our state.

Through the various leadership initiatives, Richard is a learner maximizer and has the ability to leverage leadership in any organization. Through his thoughtful teaching is a gifted professional; involving his aptitude to unite with each individual that marks him a lighthouse in education. Richard is the consummate professional, working with uttermost respect and attention. His compassion for each individual within our organization is renowned and esteemed by many. We are very fortunate to have him in Hartford Public Schools.

Sincerely,

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