



February 26, 2018

Letter of Support – Award for Outstanding Young Educator
Kirstin Greig

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my sincere pleasure to write this letter of support for Kirstin Greig for the 2018 Award for Outstanding Young Educator.

Kirstin is a 4th grade teacher at one of our newest and most innovative elementary school sites, Beacon Park School. It is abundantly clear to the students, staff and parents that she is an exemplary educator and role model. Her primary teaching philosophy is centered around self-efficacy and growth mindset. Her current projects focus on Cognitively Guided Instruction math and the use of technology as an inquiry and communication tool.

Among her many outstanding achievements in the world of technology, Kirstin is a Google Certified Trainer, Google Certified Educator Level 2, Microsoft Innovative Educator, Flipgrid Ambassador, Apple Teacher, Remind Connected Educator, and Common Sense Educator. Her passion for innovative teaching and learning significantly enriches her own classroom but also translates to the building of capacity in Beacon Park School and all of IUSD as well.

Kirstin also exemplifies the depth of dedication to the students of California through her contributions to and investments in an array of educational organizations. She has been asked to present at regional and national conferences, including CUE, OCCUE, SDCUE, and at UC Irvine. She is the 2018 CUE Outstanding Emerging Teacher of the Year, and still finds time to serve as a mentor teacher for a student teacher.

In her mission to support future ready students, Kirstin has created various innovative projects as well as shared her knowledge and ideas with her school, professional learning network, and other educators through presentations and social media.

Kirstin fully maximizes the benefits and power of technology as an instructional tool to enhance her teaching and student learning. For example, she designed a collaborative, ongoing program called Innovator Academy. Students from across her grade level identify a real-world topic or problem that interests them, and Kirstin supports them by connecting them with experts in the field through collaborative technology. Students are guided in setting their own learning goals through the design thinking process. Innovator Academy brings empathy and a global perspective to support Kirstin's empowered classroom.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PAUL BOKOTA / LAUREN BROOKS / BETTY CARROLL / IRA GLASKY / SHARON WALLIN
TERRY L. WALKER, *Superintendent of Schools*

JOHN FOGARTY, *Assistant Superintendent, Business Services* / BRIANNE FORD, *Chief Technology Officer*
EAMONN O'DONOVAN, *Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources* / CASSIE PARHAM, *Assistant Superintendent, Education Services*

Letter of Support – Award for Outstanding Young Educator

Kirstin Greig

February 26, 2018

Page two

To enhance social and emotional wellness, Kirstin recently started a kindness initiative at her school using Flipgrid for students and teachers to post shout-outs to recognize their peers. Her goal is that every student that leaves her classroom will feel that they have made a positive impact as a leader and had opportunities to display their innovation and creativity through the use of technology.

Kirstin is dedicated to collaborating with her colleagues to design authentic and innovative learning experiences through the use of technology. Kirstin's 4th grade teammate, Darin Nakakihara, said, "Kirstin embodies the IUSD spirit. She is innovative and willing to do whatever it takes to make learning meaningful for her students. She welcomes other teachers into her classroom and takes the time to show them new and exciting technology." In addition, Kirstin's 4th grade teammate, Brandon Wislocki, said, "Kirstin is an educator who loves children, reflects on teaching practices and will do whatever it takes to lead her students and colleagues to success. I have always been impressed with her introspection and desire to improve her teaching practice." Kirstin works seamlessly with her grade level team to create a learning environment that values student voice and choice, as well as active ownership of learning goals.

Kirstin personifies educational empowerment in 2018 and the effective use of technology to enrich and engage students, and I can think of no candidate more worthy to receive this recognition. In a high-performing school district of over 1,400 teachers, I can't think of a more deserving representative. It is therefore with great conviction that I support her nomination for the Outstanding Young Educator award. If I can be of any further assistance, or if I may provide you with more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Walker

Superintendent of Schools

TW/wb