

October 25, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

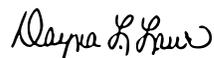
It is my pleasure to recommend White Oak Primary School in White Oak ISD as a model PLC school from this year's cohort of applicants. Over the last six years, I have built a solid relationship with the school and district through our partnership to bring authentic project-based learning into all buildings across the district. Through this close relationship, I have witnessed, firsthand, the dedicated efforts of the administration and faculty to bring about impactful change in a concerted effort to meet the needs of all of their learners in an authentic, relevant, and appropriately complex manner. They are a standout district and school in building relationships with their students with a core foundation built on co-creating learning experiences rather than merely teaching through activities. Their coordinated efforts across all grade levels in the building have been predicated on systemic change that supports not only innovative education pedagogical practices but through Response to Intervention and a transformation of how teachers collaborate to ensure deep learning for all students.

As the school head, Claire Koonce, in conjunction with her assistant Matthew Folmer, has lead this effort. The pair also has dedicated support system, second to none, with Michael Gilbert and Mitzi Neely from the superintendent's office. The core of this team models the PLC process for the White Oak Primary teachers as they, too, work together to analyze and improve educational practice with a focus on the supports for their teachers as they, in turn, develop improvements to their own classroom practice.

In my extensive travels across the United States and internationally, it is a rare occurrence to witness such a cohesive group of educators. From our summer professional learning sessions, in which grade level teams collectively plan new authentic learning experiences, to their cross-grade level vertical alignment within these learning experiences, the emphasis of their efforts is always their learners. At the heart of this design, these teachers focus on data to determine what needs must be addressed and plan extensive formative assessment opportunities to inform their instruction throughout the learning experiences, knowing they will work together to use this data to adjust their instruction as needed. This, fundamentally, is the perfect illustration of a successful PLC in practice.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to celebrating the distinction as a model PLC school with the White Oak Primary School family in the near future.

Sincerely,



Dayna L. Laur  
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Project ARC Co-Founder