



Curriculum & Instruction
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Sandra Husk, Superintendent

February 23, 2007

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of recommendation in support of Performance Learning Systems (PLS). Over the past three years, district leadership and staff at Salem-Keizer school district have benefited from numerous workshops and technical assistance sessions facilitated by PLS consultants. These staff development opportunities have led to enriched conversations and thoughtful planning by District and school personnel on effective strategies that promote successful practices in teaching and learning.

In 2005, leadership teams from the District and five of our high schools met with PLS staff to develop plans for implementation of smaller learning communities (SLCs). Since that time, PLS consultants have continued to partner with the District in support of our school reform initiatives, including multiple staff workshops in SLC restructuring and Ninth Grade Academy development, as well as leadership training focusing on school redesign. Additionally, PLS staff have offered research and resources targeting community engagement and parental involvement, including as keynote speakers at community forums.

In September 2006, PLS organized a one-day conference dedicated to teaching and learning for our District. Over 1000 high school staff members ranging from administrators, faculty, special programs staff and support staff were afforded the opportunity to focus on the craft of teaching by selecting from over 30 diverse topics such as assessment for learning, integrated instruction, motivation for reluctant learners, career academies, differentiated instruction, professional learning communities, and peer coaching. Participants repeatedly commented on the excellence of the sessions, the relevance of the topics and the high caliber, engaging presenters. Administrators utilized the conference to launch follow-up staff development for the year.

With a broad spectrum of consultants and expertise, PLS has been a catalyst in the successful implementation of school reform initiatives in Salem-Keizer school district. PLS is a valued educational partner whom I wholeheartedly recommend to fellow colleagues and school districts.

Sharleen Grove
Coordinator, Career and Technical Education