

January 26, 2010

To whom it may concern:

It is my distinct pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Dan Hidalgo. It is my understanding that Dan is applying for a grant to establish an Art Workshop in the area of Teton, Idaho. I would like to inform you of several qualities about Dan that would make him an appropriate recipient of the grant.

I have known Dan for approximately thirty years. Dan has exhibited integrity in many experiences throughout his life. For example, I have asked Dan on several occasions to teach a workshop for our multi-cultural festival I have held at our local junior high school. Without hesitation, Dan committed to the program and provided a wonderful art experience for my students. Dan was very popular with our students and made a lasting impression on them.

Dan is a visionary person. As I understand Dan's project, I would like to state there is a need for it. The project is taking place in rural Idaho where cultural education and experiences for kids is minimal. At this time, the Idaho State Legislator is looking to cut the state of Idaho Educational Budget by 45 million dollars. The proposed cut will hurt rural Idaho School Districts where they will be forced to cut educational opportunities in the areas of Art, Dance etc. to keep school systems financially solvent. Dan's project has the potential to ease the burden on the school district and provide a fantastic opportunity for students in the area of Art Education.

As a former educator both in the classroom and administrative level, I'm concerned about the direction the public school system is headed. It is refreshing to know that Dan understands the current funding situation for his local school district and is willing to think "outside the box" to offer a program for students. Dan's creativity will encourage students to follow his example.

Please consider Dan Hidalgo for this grant. Dan will make sure the grant money is appropriately managed to help meet students' needs in the area of Art. If you have any questions concerning Dan, please contact me at 208-680-7188 or 208-782-1965. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Gabrylczyk
Former Principal of Snake River Junior High, Blackfoot, Idaho