

May 4, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written on behalf of Dr. Derek Jordan whom I had the opportunity to supervise. My name is Jacqueline Anderson-Houzz, a retired educator of Chicago Public Schools. My last position was Chief Officer of the Office of School Coordination.

This position afforded me the ability to observe and supervise Dr. Jordan in a variety of capacities for many years. Dr. Jordan was the principal of Adam Clayton Powell Elementary School when I had this opportunity.

Dr. Jordan has demonstrated a strategic vision that supports the goals that ensure that every child has access to a world class learning experience. He has over 20 years of proven ability to improve student growth, achievement and academic excellence, especially implementing a quality rigorous curriculum for students.

Dr. Jordan is a skilled educator with a proven record of success. He has the ability to formulate innovative ideas and techniques to achieve organizational goals as well as to overcome academic, fiscal and growth challenges. He understands how to use multiple sources of data to inform daily decisions in improving instructional practices. He is motivated to promote a safe learning environment, ensure a culture of continuous instructional improvement for teachers, and academic achievement for students. Dr. Jordan has demonstrated strong service and support for the community and parents.

Dr. Jordan is an articulate, self-driven, task oriented individual who would be an asset to any organization. He is efficient, extremely competent and successfully finishes a task well before the deadline. He is organized and has excellent rapport with all stakeholders. He never misses a deadline or forgets an assignment. He has excellent communication skills (written and verbal).

I am confident that Dr. Jordan would provide a focus and strategic vision for realizing the mission of any organization, and his proven track record is evidence of his abilities.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Jacqueline Anderson-Houzz

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Educational Consultant

*Dr. Robert A. Saddler
Retired Deputy Superintendent
Chicago Public Schools*

Chicago, Illinois 60617

05/04/2016

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of recommendation is written on behalf of Dr. Derek W. Jordan. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Jordan for over twenty (20) years in my capacity as former District Superintendent for the Chicago Board of Education. During my tenure, Dr. Jordan served as an assistant principal for a local area high school and rightfully ascended to the position of principal of Adam Clayton Powell Elementary School. The South Shore community where Powell is located had a dire need for a flagship school with a superior academic curriculum. Under Dr. Jordan's leadership, Powell Elementary fulfilled that need. Dr. Jordan brought a vision of academic excellence and innovative instruction that was a dynamic in its approach and ambitious in its goals. Under his leadership, the school was soon off of the ominous "watch list" and its probationary status was lifted. Dr. Jordan led the movement for a new academic building to house this revolutionary change and with the cooperation of the local politicians this came to fruition. The community experienced a positive change and Dr. Jordan soon demonstrated that students from a challenged socioeconomic area can be superior learners and achieve both in and out of the classroom. The parents adapted and believed in his philosophy of education that incorporated and involved the home environment and helped strengthen the school experience. The faculty and staff have praised Dr. Jordan's leadership style that allows the teachers to creatively impart knowledge and bring innovative ideas into the classroom. The faculty was encouraged to participate in workshops that emphasized progressive educational techniques and he encouraged them to obtain advanced degrees and certifications.

I have had to supervise hundreds of administrators over the course of my career. I can attest to the fact that Derek Jordan has the skills, acumen, and attitude that makes for great academic leaders. He does not shy away from a challenge and his knowledge of curriculum, development and instructional design allow him to bring formidable positive change to any academic environment. He is able to select quality staff that are "team players" and give them the support they need despite fiscal constraints designed to impede growth. His character and integrity are above reproach and he is genuine in his passion for quality education and his dedication to the community. I recommend Dr. Derek W. Jordan for a position of educational leadership.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Saddler
Robert A. Saddler, PhD

05/04/2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that this letter is in testament to the skills and attributes of Dr. Derek W. Jordan. I have had the unique privilege of knowing Dr. Jordan for thirty (30) years in my capacity of Founding Assistant Principal of Percy L. Julian High School and then as an Educational Consultant for the Chicago Public School System. During these three decades of association I have watched Derek Jordan grow from a highly motivated high school honor student, he then developed into a mature, self-confident college man. He became a creative, caring educator and he is now an experienced, innovative educational administrator. He has developed into a consummate educator with extensive expertise in instructional and curriculum development. As principal of Adam Clayton Powell Elementary School, he took a challenged academic environment complicated by socioeconomic issues and made a positive change in the culture, expectations, and outcomes thusly elevating the institution into one of the leading elementary schools in Chicago. It's prior academic probationary status was corrected within one year of his leadership and Powell School became that beacon of educational excellence that the community had long lacked. In addition, his commitment to the children and families of the community was evidenced when he rallied the local elected officials and spearheaded the building of a state of the art facility that would reflect and house the latest advances in reading, mathematics, science, and technology. Under Dr. Jordan's tutelage, Powell Elementary School served to provide advanced curricular and co-curricular programs to the students and uplift the hopes and dreams of the South Shore community.

Dr. Derek Jordan is an educational visionary who saw an institution that was a "diamond in the rough", realized its potential and made the dream a reality. He believes in the cardinal rule of "safety first" and ensured that the school was always a safe haven from negative influences. Dr. Jordan assembled qualified faculty and staff that could impart and implement a rigorous curriculum that would challenge the students and help them reach their full potential. Dr. Jordan created a positive work environment where the teachers felt the compassion and support of the administration in their efforts to bring innovation and creativity to the classroom. He worked diligently with the parent organization and his educational philosophy is based on the solid foundation of the School, Home, and Community triad. His progressive instructional design and development of a quality curriculum have resulted in high student achievement on standardized exams and a significant improvement in the student's critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Dr. Derek Jordan is a superior educator who has raised the academic bar in every institution in which he has affiliated. He has strength of character and outstanding integrity. He has the ability to supervise personnel on an individual, local, or system side level. I wholeheartedly and without reservation recommend Dr. Derek W. Jordan for a position of educational leadership.

Sincerely,



McKinley H. Brister

Retired Assistant Principal- Percy L. Julian HS/Educational Consultant