



Central Kitsap High School

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"Dedicated to Excellence"

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June 18, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to recommend Elizabeth Blandin and J.D. Sweet for your consideration in providing you with Cultural Proficiency Training services. I am an educator of sixteen years with the past six years as a guidance counselor and, more recently, as an acting assistant principal. Ms. Blandin's and Mr. Sweet's cultural proficiency trainings for the CKHS staff have been outstanding!

Over the years, I have seen many educational initiatives come and go. I have also actively participated in cultural proficiency trainings with other presenters. Many educators will openly admit, "Here's another useless presentation I'll have to sit through. It'll all go away once someone else has another great idea and imposes those ideas upon us. Then, that too will disappear!" With Elizabeth Blandin and J.D. Sweet, I appreciate their proactive approach to cultural training. I firmly believe that Ms. Blandin's and Mr. Sweet's teaching backgrounds have provided them with the necessary training to get our staff moving forward. The trainings have had all staff members heavily involved in exploring their beliefs, raising their awareness, and learning about culturally responsible and responsive teaching in the classroom. In fact, our staff—both certificated and classified—were EXCITED to learn useful and meaningful strategies that they could use the very next day. After trying some of the strategies, the teachers were often enthusiastically sharing their experiences with other teachers in the staff lounges.

New Phase, New Ways provides valuable tools for all educators and for the support staff. School staff are also provided with the means to periodically evaluate themselves and their progress in working with students. New Phase, New Ways is unequivocally the best training program to get your school actively engaged with students in reaching academic, social, and emotional success! Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 808.271.0420.

Respectfully yours,

Raenette N.S. Wood
CKHS Guidance Counselor
Oak Harbor High School Associate Principal