

Matthew Hebard, Colorado
Letter of Support_Joanne Dalton
Emerging Leaders Application

January 18, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I have had the fortunate experience of learning and teaching with Matt Hebard whom I would like to recommend for the Emerging Leader in Early Childhood Education recognition!

Matt was a member of a cohort of the Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program, here in Denver, Colorado which I have had the honor and pleasure of co-teaching in for the past 7 years. As a member of that cohort, Matt was expected to attend and participate in the 18 hours of Masters Level coursework as well as fulfill assignment requirements and develop an Action Research Project. Not only did Matt fulfill all the requirements to earn this Certificate, he was the driving force that provided social connections to the other 19 participants in his cohort as well as connecting to the Alumni of this program who reside and work all over the state of Colorado. His Capstone Project, developed with another colleague from the cohort, has become the seed for a school for children to be taught in nature and the grand outdoors that he plans on creating with his colleague and interested families.

An avid bicyclist who rides to work year round, he walks and talks his passion about true Outdoor Education and Education Outdoors! As a male in Early Childhood Education, he has seen the critical significance of all children enjoying and learning in an open classroom. Influenced greatly by Reggio inspired teachings, classrooms, instructors and colleagues, Matt offers an abundance of creativity and insights as to how to facilitate individual learning for each child in all domains. His background as a classroom teacher, Coordinator of Head Start services in the Cherry Creek school district and now Early Childhood Systems Manager for the Colorado Department of Human Services, Matt has demonstrated his natural ability to synthesize information and more importantly implement his understanding and share it with others. His resourcefulness is seen, felt and heard by others by simply listening and collaborating with others. His sincere approach to working with diverse populations influences those around him to open up and be themselves creating authentic and genuine opportunities for conversation, learning and sharing.

In addition to continuing to gain knowledge and skills, Matt has an amazing sense of humor and upbeat disposition. Besides making people have fun and laugh, he uses his quick wit to engage people and make them think deeper and smarter. Matt cares for others' mental, physical and emotional selves!

It is with no hesitation that I write this letter of recommendation for Matt. He is definitely one to pass the baton onto as we continue to advocate, teach and learn with all children and all adults in the Early Childhood Education community!

Sincerely,

Joanne Dalton, Adjunct Faculty, University of Colorado - Denver

Joanne708094@gmail.com

720-581-2694

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