

September 2, 2013

To whom it may concern:

Keith Bookwalter is one of the finest, all-around educators I have ever had the privilege of knowing. I have known Keith since 1995 when, on his own initiative, he took our Developmental Activities Program (dap) Training Institute in Iowa City and again in 1998 when he videotaped the entire 60-hour institute during a two-week period. It was immediately clear to us that Keith would be great to have on our dap staff. He has proven to be far beyond anything we anticipated in terms of innovation, personal growth, training other teachers, and staying power. Because he has been located in Colombia, South America, Keith has not been hindered in his work by the scourge of No Child Left Behind, Bush's falsely premised, test-based fiasco which has done nearly irreparable damage to American Education.

An entire generation of innovators, excellent teachers and administrators retired early rather than abandon the sound teaching practices they knew were right. (I myself had to retire in 1996 on disability due to severe rheumatoid arthritis after working 20 years as an educational consultant for Grant Wood Area Education Agency in Coralville, Iowa.) We lost all of our U.S.-based dap staff members due to Bush's canceling Eisenhower Money which was used by states to fund teacher training in math and science. Teachers were expected to raise test scores with no inservice education and no basis for teaching differently. This, in my estimation, is the greatest shortcoming of any program purporting to improve student learning. We believe teachers must understand how individual children's thinking develops in order to learn teaching approaches that encourage thinking, not memorization. I am hoping for the revitalization of innovative practices in education that will build on what we have learned about children's thinking. If given the opportunity and the necessary support, Keith is capable of leading such an endeavor.

I do want to emphasize that Keith is not a "one-trick pony." His knowledge of children's thinking gained from dap gives him a broad basis for program design and teaching. Some of Keith's unique qualifications, personal qualities, and professional activities are:

- his background in the development of children's thinking that no one else will have;
- his approach to learning not based on Stimulus-Response theory;
- his assessment of children's progress not being limited to achievement-type tests;
- his not rewarding or punishing teachers according to their students' test results; rather;
- his ability to train teachers to use unique, hands-on assessments;
- his doctoral research with children;
- his research being published this year by Lambert Academic Publishing in Germany;

- his ability to obtain grants;
- his unique administrative abilities;
- his excellent teaching with children and adults;
- his promotion of dap (hands-on, research-based program)
- his teaching institutes;
- the 90-some teachers he has trained in a logical thinking approach to math and science (including his own daughter);
- his having the two dap teachers' guides translated to Spanish;
- his never selling out;
- his being:
 - *very personable,
 - *a good team player,
 - *a genuinely nice man,
 - *very much needed in the United States to promote developmentally appropriate practice and to obtain grant money for teacher training

I believe Keith Bookwalter is needed to help create a new dawn of innovation in America to benefit all children and teachers. I am profoundly grateful to have the opportunity to recommend him for your consideration.

Very sincerely,

Dale Phillips, Ph.D.

Director of the award-winning Developmental Activities Program (dap)

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