

To: Whom it may concern

From: Mr. Neal Kranz

Re: Mr. Jacob Dowdell, Jr.

Date: 6/4/12

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Neal Kranz and I am a Third Grade teacher at Commander William McCool Elem./Middle School on Guam. I am writing today on behalf of Mr. Jacob Dowdell, Jr. in support of his nomination for Teacher of Year. I am doing this because, simply, I feel he deserves the award and I would like to take this opportunity to explain why.

Jacob is one of those people. From the moment you meet him, you feel you have known him forever and that he is a person you can rely on. This was true the first time we met and began discussing how we go about the business of helping students succeed in the classroom. What Jacob shared with me has helped me refine and focus my teaching and has been of direct benefit to the many students that have spent time in my classroom since.

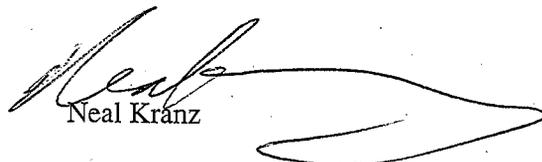
In a nutshell, he explained his conceptualization of Loving, Laughing, and Learning, a classroom philosophy and structure that elevates everyone involved. While I recognized many of it's elements as being known excellent teaching practices, what struck me was the integration of so many of these practices into a workable, invigorating structure that was student driven. Further, it is centered on a classroom environment that simultaneously demands individual student excellence and unifies the class with common goals. Of course, it is the careful planning and patient guidance of the instructor that makes this all come about, and Jacob does an excellent job of this.

Since being introduced to Jacob's ideas of Loving, Laughing, and Learning, I have modified my classroom setting to incorporate many of these elements and it has made a marked difference in my teaching. For this reason, if no other, I believe that Jacob deserves the award. But there are other reasons.

Simply put, there are few times in a profession such as teaching when you will find an individual that is almost unanimously recognized by students, parents, colleagues and administration as being that one notch above the field. I truly believe that that is the case with Jacob, and, to be honest, I was surprised when I learned that he hadn't already been given this award in the past. That being the case, though, I think it is about time to recognize Mr. Jacob Dowdell for the excellent educator and mentor he is. Thank you for your time and attention.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 339-8676 or by email at neal.kranz@gmail.com.

Sincerely,


Neal Kranz