



Dear PAEMST Selection Committee:

It is both a professional honor and an individual privilege to recommend Mr. Marc Pedersen, Science teacher at Paulding County High School (Paulding County School District; Dallas, GA), for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). My role as a regional, state, and national consultant and professional developer has taken me into hundreds of schools and thousands of classrooms and, in my opinion, this congressional honor was conceptualized and created to recognize teachers just like Marc Pedersen.

Fall Semester of 2008 marked my first meeting with Marc. Paulding County High School was, at that time, on the state (Georgia) Title I Needs Improvement list and was considered by many locals the “difficult” high school. Within his department, Marc was the beacon of light; however, a beacon who wished for additional support. Our regional service agency (Northwest Georgia RESA) was tasked with providing internal support for the school and selected teachers. The teacher I found on that first day and came to know and appreciate was one with the highest level of potential, the most compassionate heart for children/students, and the mind of a committed problem solver...he was not satisfied to give up on any student.

Marc Pedersen has accomplished what many considered impossible. He created a classroom environment in which ALL students could experience success and was personally satisfied with nothing less. Data is clear on the numerous times since the 2008-2009 school year when Marc’s students, collectively, have achieved a 100% Meets and Exceeds Expectations rate on state assessments in Biology. Upon rollout of the Georgia Student Learning Objective assessments (SLO), his Chemistry classes have scored in the 100% Exceeds Expectations range (correlated to significantly above typical growth).

When one considers the *Five Dimensions of Outstanding Teaching*, Marc Pedersen exceeds professional expectations in each dimension, yet, continues a commitment to deepening his professional practice. Marc has been and is involved in our Math-Science Partnership Program (U.S. Department of Education) on multiple levels. He has served as a presenter for our beginning and intermediate MSP teacher-candidates on content enrichment, instructional methodologies and strategies, and means of assessing student progress that provides students with feedback and accelerates their learning. Most recently, Marc has joined the Expert Strand of our current MSP initiative (STEM-2-CAREER) to extend and refine his skills and competencies as a reflective practitioner and to capture even more opportunities to lead teachers outside of his classroom, his school, and his district.

Marc Pedersen’s commitment to the profession is evidenced, daily, throughout his work. He personifies providing the highest level of rigor and relevance for all students, is masterful in creating a high-performance learning culture in his classroom, and is always ready to mentor his peers. It would be impossible to choose a more deserving teacher for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

Sincerely,

Karen Faircloth

Director of School Improvement and Professional Learning

Northwest Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency, Rome, Georgia