

January 29, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter for an outstanding leader, community member and employee who now serves as Lead Custodian for the Sedro-Woolley School District, Ms. Diane Harris. She capably served the school district with me for nine years while I was superintendent from 2004 to 2013. In her long career with the district she held many jobs and was always hard working, committed, and highly respected by her peers and supervisors. During her many years at Sedro-Woolley she has been a district "employee of the year" many times. I found Diane to be a great support for me, the students, staff, the school district and the Sedro-Woolley community - dependable, trustworthy, loyal, and a positive addition to our Sedro-Woolley team.

Diane works very well with administrators, community members, parents, and district staff and is respected by all. She is well versed in her many areas of responsibility and has outstanding expertise in working with district personnel, procedures and management practices. Ms. Harris has worked with staff and administrators to improve the district and has provided input and leadership into district strategic planning - vision/mission, goals, and action plans. She is actively involved at the district level in overseeing the district's custodial team, safety planning, quality control, work scheduling and working collaboratively with the district's facilities director, Mark Campbell. She has experience in many areas of school maintenance and upkeep and took great pride in our schools, her work and the work of others. She is a strong proponent for her staff, students and fellow employees, who had the trust of our school board and community. She has been involved in and has shown leadership in community activities as member of the Sedro-Woolley Schools Strategic Planning team, and Sedro-Woolley bond and levy citizen's teams, Clear Lake Elementary painting project and participated in the planning and construction of the new middle school. Diane sets high expectations for herself and those around her and has challenged her and others to improve. She always has taken on many new tasks and responsibilities with a strong sense of pride, motivation and accomplishment.

Her dedication and loyalty to Sedro-Woolley and its students made her an asset and icon to the schools and district. She is more than willing to put in the extra time and effort it takes to make and lead a successful and high functioning district and building custodial team that kept our buildings welcoming and positive places for our student, staff, parents and community. She has been a strong community and district voice and model of professionalism for the district that not only provided support for the superintendent and the board, but also provided guidance and collaboration with administrators, teachers and students.

I highly recommend Diane for the State PSE recognition award. Over the 9 years with me she consistently worked with and supported our district and addressed many challenges and opportunities. I fully trust and respect her as a professional and as a friend. I am confident she will continue to be successful and a positive representative for the PSE organization and school district. She is an outstanding woman with a great career of serving the Sedro-Woolley School District and community.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Venn
Retired Superintendent -- Sedro-Woolley Schools