

SPIRIT LAKE

Elementary School
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

January 2, 2014

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great pleasure I write this letter of recommendation for Clayton Ellis. I have known Clayton for 4 years and it will be difficult to describe the many 'hats he wears' in just one page. It's an honor to refer to this colleague as my friend.

I first met Clayton in Washington D.C. at a 'SPEAK Out!' event sponsored by NASPE. This event allowed vested health/physical educators the opportunity to meet with their state's legislators, relaying 'real world' perspective to how future health/fitness related bills and laws would effect future generations. I later found out Clayton is no stranger to proactively being involved politically to give voice to students. Clayton was hand picked by the governor of Colorado to serve on the *Governor's Council for Physical Fitness*. This group, of varied professional backgrounds, meets regularly to brainstorm and enact events and policy that will positively effect Colorado student's health/wellness.

A friendship evolved with Clayton because we met regularly at AAHPERD events at the state, district and national levels. Over the years Clayton has occupied leadership roles at all three levels and is truly looked upon as a strong, proactive leader. These leadership roles have lead to Clayton receiving countless recognition awards such as the NASPE National Teacher of the Year Award in 2010 and AAHPERD's most distinguished National Honor Award in 2013. Clayton would never tell you of these accomplishments so it's necessary I do.

One of Clayton's most endearing qualities is he is an 'aura' guy. He has the ability to walk in to a room with his warm, friendly, humorous, knowledgeable and energizing personality making everyone feel welcome, involved and worthy to be there. He also maintains these relationships both personally and via social networks. At the last two national conventions, it was not uncommon to have individuals he's never met stop him or call across the street, "Hey Clayton, I follow you on Twitter!", or "I love your webpage!" and "Thanks for friending me on Facebook!". Through these networking opportunities, Clayton has a vast group of professionals he engages with making him more than just a 'one hit wonder' presenter.

Clayton's greatest strength is his ability to present/teach. Having been to dozens of his sessions I didn't hesitate to bring Clayton in as a featured presenter for the IAHPERD 2012 Convention. Clayton has the ability to present 1-3 sessions, do an entire workshop or even serve as a keynote speaker for an event. Clayton has worked in extreme situations including teaching at risk students in Colorado, coaching HS football in Texas, and implementing the discipline of martial arts in to everyday classes. With his hands on approach you will learn classroom and behavioral management 'tools', skill/technique tips and assessment pieces. All presented information has a foundation of national teaching standards. Perhaps the greatest compliment I'll give Clayton is if there was a position open in our school district, I would actively pursue him. I would feel extremely comfortable having my daughters under Clayton's guidance.

Sincerely,

Tim O'Hagan

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