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More. From day one.

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To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter of recommendation for Derek McCoy with great enthusiasm. I have come to know Derek from working with him with the #edfocus chat group. This work epitomizes digital leadership and the work of a connected digital principal. In this letter I would like to express my respect and appreciation for this outstanding school leader who makes a valued contribution to our field of work.

I have worked with #edfocus moderators several times in the past. This group is dedicated to connecting authors and education experts to educators worldwide through scheduled Twitter chats. Derek has been critical in helping organize my chats [as well as many others], driving content discussions with other educators and promoting getting connected. The #edfocus group uses social media to promote their work. As one of the co-moderators for the chats, Derek supports guest moderators work with social media promotions, blog contributions, becoming content specialists in a variety of subjects and coaching educators at all levels on topics during chats.

The #edfocus moderators are at the forefront of innovative digital leaders in education. Derek is currently a middle school principal who blogs about his growth and development as a school leader, the work in changing his school and best practices for school leaders with supporting change with teaching and learning using digital tools. His commitment to connect with and assist other educators/school leaders grow new skills needed to change our schools is very admirable. Even more evident is his demonstrated high degree of efficacy and impact with his digital practice. He is a change agent committed to using digital tools and social media to not only improve his practice but also to help other educators and leaders transform their practice to improve teaching and learning. His continued work is having a lasting impact on educators and on the field of education.

I strongly support Derek McCoy. His work as a digital leader, in his school and on digital mediums, helps school leaders and practicing educators change teaching and learning. Derek devotes incredible time and energy to changing his school. He also goes above and beyond by influencing the education landscape as a whole by committing to his work with #edfocus. It is very special to find an educator who is successful at influencing and impacting the education field at large. I can say from experience and observation that Derek is having that impact. He is a model example of a digital leader. It is my sincere hope that this letter helps the decision making body reach agreement that Derek McCoy deserves and should be recognized as the NASSP Digital Principal of the Year.

Sincerely,


Todd Whitaker, Ph.D.