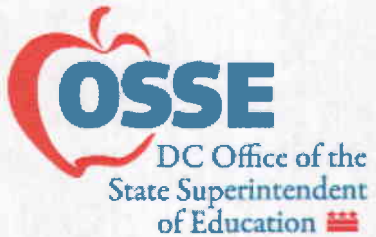

May 13, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is establishing a file of emerging classroom leaders that includes a cadre of distinguished teachers and principals. Individuals on this list may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces as well as candidates for special recognition programs. Your recommendations of educators for this list will help to identify those who will be of great value to the District of Columbia.

We are searching for educators who demonstrate unusual instructional and leadership ability. Such persons exhibit strong potential for professional leadership and inspiring presence that influences students, colleagues, and communities. Do you know an educator, with at least 5 years of teaching experience, who exemplifies the District's and nation's best? An exemplary educator that …

- serves as a role model to other educators.
- has distinguished him/herself as the epitome of a top-quality professional.
- is focused on and realizes student achievement gains.

Candidates are typically classroom teachers who have been recognized by both peers and supervisors as unique and impressive, although occasionally a principal or specialist is considered. Previous recognition is not a prerequisite, and we are very interested in outstanding educators that have yet to receive the recognition they deserve.

Please provide **confidential** and specific information regarding your nominee on the enclosed form. All questions must be answered, preferably typewritten. Please include a one-page narrative with this form that addresses how the candidate meets the criteria mentioned in this letter, and a resume from their personnel file (if available). We ask that you keep this recommendation confidential and do not share it with the individual/s you nominate. If necessary, please assign the request to relevant staff that would be able to assist with generating pool candidates.

Complete information must be received by Tuesday, June 2, 2009 and sent to:

Erika L. Lomax
Director of Educator Quality
51 N Street, N.E., Suite 3019
Washington, DC 20002
202.741.0257 (Office)
202.724.7656 (Fax)
erika.lomax@dc.gov

Your cooperation and assistance in building the statewide talent pool is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kerri L. Briggs
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosure: Talent Pool Recommendation Form