



Think. Learn. **Grow.**

...becoming the model for urban education in the United States.

23 May 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to support the nomination of Ms. Sherry Gupta for the 2016 Women of Influence award. I have known Ms. Gupta for four years and my organization has engaged in many successful, collaborative projects with CultureALL, for which she is the Executive Director.

Integrity is the first word that comes to mind when I think of Ms. Gupta. In her role as the leader of CultureALL, she has consistently modeled the kind of leadership behavior, mission focus, and collaborative spirit that we hope to instill in all of the students served by DMPS. While resources are always a challenge, through a creative approach to problem-solving, Ms. Gupta has empowered a wide-range of our teachers and students to build strong relationships among the multiple cultures represented by our students, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Ms. Gupta models the values of her organization. While her leadership is highly effective in CultureALL achieving its mission, her impact goes well beyond the arms of her organization. Her spirit of giving, understanding, and building bridges across our diverse community has built empathy, understanding, and efficacy throughout the school district and everyone it touches.

Ms. Gupta embodies everything that this award is intended to recognize and I energetically support her nomination. If you would like to speak with me further about her candidacy, please contact me at thomas.ahart@dmschools.org or (515) 242-7766.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Ahart", written over a series of horizontal lines.

Thomas M. Ahart, Ed.D. | Office of the Superintendent

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