



# COLEGIO INTERAMERICANO

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of Mr. Jim Burwell who is completing his third year of service as our High School Principal. Before becoming our High School Principal, Mr. Burwell, taught English in the High School. Mr. Burwell is a seasoned High School Educator who is passionate about his profession and genuinely cares about children.

## Mr. Burwell's accomplishments during the last three years include the following:

- He began an elective program with the objective of improving the Arts and Music program. His changes in the High School Schedule have resulted in the establishment and growth of performance groups including Concert Band, Concert Choir, Orchestra, and Guitar Class.
- Mr. Burwell introduced a 1:1 laptop program with a successful piloting in grade 10. This program will be expanded to include grades 9-12 during the 2010-2011 school year.
- Thanks to his leadership, the school adopted Edline and Gradequick along with an update of Administrator Plus to integrate and modernize online communication with students and parents. Taking attendance, scheduling, keeping track of discipline and reporting of grades is much easier now thanks to this innovation.
- Mr. Burwell has been active in staff development and has presented workshops on assessment, the use of rubrics, 6 Trait + 1 writing, What Works in Schools (Marzano) Understanding by Design (Mctighe and Wiggins) Differentiated Instruction (Tomlinson), how to teach in a block schedule, and integration of technology in the various subjects.
- During the current school year Mr. Burwell established an AP Biology class. We now have plans for three additional AP courses for 2010-2011.
- Mr. Burwell was active in the process of curriculum revision and worked hard to maximize student learning and align the scope and sequence.
- Mr. Burwell introduced student excursions for students in grades 9-12 which include not only one or two day trips to some of Guatemala's amazing cultural and natural landmarks, but also extensive curricular components to enhance student appreciation and learning.
- Mr. Burwell established a High School Improvement Committee that includes teacher, administrators and students. This has resulted in an increase of staff and student morale.

Mr. Jim Burwell is a teacher at heart who demonstrates respect toward his students and cares deeply for both their academic and character formation.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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## COLEGIO INTERAMERICANO

6 November 2006

### To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of Mr. Jim Burwell, who is in his second year of service with Colegio Interamericano in Guatemala City. Mr. Burwell has been teaching Grade 10 World Literature during his tenure with Colegio Interamericano, and he has done an excellent job. Mr. Burwell knows his subject, is passionate about teaching, and has a positive relationship with students, parents, his colleagues, and the administration. Mr. Burwell uses innovative methods in the classroom. He is familiar with learning styles and has been able to make the class interesting for all of his students.

Mr. Burwell is active in our school community and has, on several occasions, made suggestions on how we might improve certain aspects of the school operation. Jim has been involved in staff development and presented two seminars last year: The first one was on "teaching effectively in a block schedule" and the second one was on rubrics and assessment. During the current school year, he presented a workshop on 6 Traits + 1 writing assessment. All of these workshops were well received by the faculty, and the suggestions he made have been implemented by a many of our high school teachers.

In addition to his classroom duties, Mr. Burwell has sponsored the Debate Club and is currently advising the Knowledge Bowl Team. Should you require additional information about Mr. Jim Burwell please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cordially,



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