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Serving The
Timberlane Regional School District
Hampstead School District

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR DR. CHARLES MITSAKOS

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Charles Mitsakos. I first met Dr. Mitsakos almost 30 years ago when I was a young administrator in the Nashua School District. Dr. Mitsakos had been contracted as a consultant to assist the District in implementing a comprehensive formative teacher observation and evaluation model. Dr. Mitsakos delivered a series of highly effective workshops that resulted in Nashua completely redesigning and rethinking their teacher observation and professional development model.

Over the next 30 years our paths would cross countless times both professionally and personally. Most significantly, Dr. Mitsakos was instrumental in developing a CAGS program for aspiring educational leaders at Rivier College that certified and prepared successful graduates for the challenges of school superintendency. This program was uniquely designed around the teachings of Dr. Deming and "continuous process improvement." This highly effective program was the catalyst that set me on a professional path from assistant principal in Nashua to superintendent of schools for SAU 55. This story of personal and professional growth, resulting directly from the inspirational leadership of Charles Mitsakos, is a story that is told by countless other educational leaders in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Dr. Mitsakos has been instrumental in the development of more successful educational leaders than any other individual I know. His legacy lives in the long list of educational leaders he has developed and who are actively sharing his vision and inspiration.

In his tenure in at Rivier, Charles has contributed to the growth and development of an extremely successful teacher preparation program – the largest and most sought after program at Rivier. Rivier graduates are highly respected and solicited as teacher candidates. Dr. Mitsakos has attracted a strong cadre of college instructors and professors uniquely qualified to instruct traditional best practices while staying current with cutting edge instructional strategies. Exceptional teacher preparation has resulted in young teacher candidates that are truly "Highly Qualified" and uniquely prepared to take on the challenges of 21st Century education. The success of this program can be directly linked to the leadership and vision as provided by Dr. Mitsakos over the past 20 years.

The word "quality" is synonymous with Charles. He, in every aspect of his personal and professional being, exudes quality. He is the quintessential professional. He exemplifies caring, respect, and courtesy. He is motivated by one thing -- always doing what is best for children. He achieves this while caring deeply for the professionals who work with the children. Charles is collaborative and engaging by nature and has a gentle, yet extremely effective style that motivates others and brings about consensus. It is this charisma that allows him to set high standards, make difficult decisions and achieve great things in an atmosphere of cooperation and caring. Charles is one of the best examples of "compassionate leader" that I have ever met and I have learned and benefited greatly from my time working with him.

Dr. Mitsakos has a tireless work ethic, exceptional instincts and timeless wisdom. I am extremely confident in Charles' abilities, and I fully support his candidacy for any position of educational leadership or in any capacity of instruction or consultation. I know no other person who I could so totally and completely endorse and I ask that you to give Charles Mitsakos your most serious consideration in his pursuit. I welcome a telephone call if I can further support his candidacy.

Sincerely,



Richard La Salle
Superintendent of Schools
January 3, 2008