

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to strongly recommend your investment in the Global Visionaries program and particularly the Global Leadership Summer institute for 2017. As a former State Superintendent of Public Instruction my most important work was helping to develop teacher leaders who could engage students from diverse backgrounds in meaningful learning and responsible application of their learning standards to make a difference in the world.

After leaving office I met Chris and his team and joined them and some incredible teachers in the Global Leadership Summer Institute. The GLSI strategies and learning environment gave caring teachers a new perspective on how to switch the power dynamic in their classrooms. They learned to create a democratic environment where students came to own their classroom experience and practiced taking their change strategies into elementary classrooms and the community.

The instructional model is a simple but profound shift that puts teachers into a shared leadership role with their students, fostered their self-respect and respect for others and moved these students from passive to active change agents using their knowledge to change the world. Today more than ever with the turmoil and lack of thinking and problem solving being modeled in our society we need this kind of learning in our schools. These young leaders will build a better world. And teaching this way will keep wonderful teachers in those schools, helping make it happen.

As Dean of Education now at Pacific Lutheran University, I hope to build these strategies into our preservice program so new teacher can start with this model.

Sincerely,

Terry Bergeson

Dean of Education – Pacific Lutheran University
And former WA State Superintendent of Public Instruction