Mike Crapo United States Senator 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

James E. Risch United States Senator 483 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 31, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

We write in support for the Federal Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Funding application submitted by Bluum. We have long supported the growth of strong schools in our state and are proud to support the work represented by Bluum's *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal.

Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, which has presented both challenges and opportunities in education. In recent years, the public and private sectors have come together to ensure students of all backgrounds in even our most rural communities have access to high-quality education. We are told that Bluum's proposal builds on the momentum of Idaho's 2018 *Communities of Excellence* CSP grant award (2018-23). With Bluum's help, Idaho's public charter school sector has been one of the nation's fastest growing and highest achieving over the last five years, having grown from 52 schools serving 22,000 students to 70 schools serving over 30,000 students. During this period, the Bluum-managed *Communities of Excellence* CSP Grant funded growth at 28 charter schools with an expected 11,467 seats to be created. Further, many of the state's highest performing public schools on state ISAT achievement tests in both English Language Arts and mathematics are perennially charter schools. The same holds for the SAT.

Bluum's *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal expands on this innovative work by: 1) increasing the number of quality Idaho charter school seats by no less than 5,900 students, especially for our most educationally disadvantaged and rural students through start-up, replication, and expansion; 2) supporting quality authorizing in Idaho while disseminating and supporting best authorizer practices statewide; and 3) evaluating and sharing the successes and lessons of high-quality charter schools to impact the broader education system. The CSP support requested in this proposal will expand the educational opportunities available to students and families across the great state of Idaho, while also fostering the ongoing development of strong charter authorizers like the Idaho Public Charter School Commission.

Bluum will continue its collaboration with key state partners. Bluum's partners are numerous and come from both the public and the nonprofit sectors. The most important are the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, the non-profit school facilities finance group Building Hope, the Idaho Charter School Network, and individual charter school operators and governing boards.

We urge the Department of Education to give this grant application all due consideration.

Wike Cryso

Sincerely,

MIKE CRAPO United States Senator

JAMES E. RISCH United States Senator

MIKE SIMPSON Member of Congress RUSS FULCHER Member of Congress

## J.A. and KATHRYN ALBERTSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

RE: Letter of Support for Bluum's Application for Federal Charter School Program Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Cardona,

I write to express support for the Federal Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Funding application submitted by Bluum, Idaho's leading nonprofit statewide charter school support entity. The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation (JKAF) has long supported education in Idaho, and this includes the growth of strong public charter schools. We are proud to support the work represented by Bluum's proposed *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal. It builds on the support we have provided, and the good work Bluum has done, to help grow high-quality charter school seats across our state.

Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, which has presented both challenges and opportunities in education. In recent years, the public and private sectors have come together to ensure students of all backgrounds in even our most rural communities have access to high-quality education. Bluum's proposal builds on the momentum of Idaho's 2018 Communities of Excellence CSP grant award (2018-23). In part through Bluum's strong management of this \$22 million federal CSP grant, Idaho's public charter school sector has been one of the nation's fastest growing and highest achieving over the last five years, having grown from 52 schools serving 22,000 students to 70 schools serving over 30,000 students. During this period, the Bluum-managed Communities of Excellence CSP Grant funded growth at 28 charter schools with an expected 11,467 seats to be created.

Many of the state's highest performing public schools on state ISAT achievement tests in both English Language Arts and Mathematics are perennially charter schools. The same holds for the SAT; Idaho charter school students show more academic growth than their peers in traditional district schools, and this is true of all students, economically disadvantaged students, minority students and rural students.

Bluum's Building on Success for Future Excellence CSP proposal expands on this earlier success by: 1) increasing the number of quality Idaho charter school seats by no less than 5,900 students, especially for our most educationally disadvantaged and rural students through start-up, replication, and expansion; 2) supporting quality authorizing in Idaho while disseminating and supporting best authorizer practices

# J.A. and KATHRYN ALBERTSON FAMILY FOUNDATION

statewide; and 3) evaluating and sharing the successes and lessons of high-quality charter schools to impact the broader education system.

The CSP support requested in this proposal will expand the educational opportunities available to students and families across the great state of Idaho, while also fostering the ongoing development of strong charter authorizers like the Idaho Public Charter School Commission.

My colleagues and I at our Foundation urge you to support Idaho's ongoing work to expand and improve our charter school community by giving this application your full consideration. We will do all we can to support this effort, the efforts of Bluum and the efforts of our partner schools across the state of Idaho.

Thank you for considering this application.

Sincerely,

Roger Quarles

Executive Director | J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation



#### SCOTT BEDKE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 19, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

Re: Letter of Support for Bluum's Application for Federal Charter School Program Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Cardona:

I am writing to express my support for the Federal Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Funding application submitted by Bluum, a leader in charter school support in our state.

Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, with many smaller rural schools. I have always been an advocate for high-quality education to be made available to every Idaho student, and charter schools are an important component of our overall education efforts. Many of the state's highest performing public schools on statewide achievement tests in both English language arts and mathematics are perennially charter schools. The same holds for the SAT. Idaho charter school students show more academic growth than their peers in traditional district schools, and this is true of all students, economically disadvantaged students and minority students.

Bluum's *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal will expand the educational opportunities available to students and families across the great state of Idaho, while also fostering the ongoing development of strong charter authorizers like the Idaho Public Charter School Commission. I am confident that Bluum will continue its collaboration with key state partners in both the public and nonprofit sectors. Among these partners are the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, the non-profit school facilities finance group Building Hope, the Idaho Charter School Network, and individual charter school operators and governing boards.

In summary, I urge you to give Bluum's CSP grant application, Building on Success for Future Excellence, your most favorable consideration.

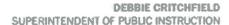
Thank you.

Scott Bedke

Lieutenant Governor

catt Bedhe

SB/mlm





650 W. STATE STREET, 2ND FLOOR BOISE, IDAHO 83702 (208) 332-6800 OFFICE / 711 TRS WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

May 23, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

RE: Letter of Support for Bluum's Application for Federal Charter School Program Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Cardona—

I am writing to express support for the Federal Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Funding application submitted by Bluum, Idaho's leading nonprofit statewide charter school support entity. I have long supported the growth of strong schools in our state and am proud to support the work represented by Bluum's *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal.

Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, which has presented both challenges and opportunities in education. In recent years, the public and private sectors have come together to ensure students of all backgrounds in even our most rural communities have access to high-quality education. Bluum's proposal builds on the momentum of Idaho's 2018 *Communities of Excellence* CSP grant award (2018-23), which I supported at that time in my role as a member of the Idaho State Board of Education. In large part through Bluum's strong management of this \$22 million CSP grant, Idaho's public charter school sector has been one of the nation's fastest growing and highest achieving over the last five years, having grown from 52 schools serving 22,000 students to 70 schools serving over 30,000 students. During this period, the Bluum-managed *Communities of Excellence* CSP Grant funded growth at 28 charter schools with an expected 11,467 seats to be created.

Many of the state's highest performing public schools on state ISAT achievement tests in both English Language Arts and mathematics are perennially public charter schools.

Bluum's *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal expands on this innovative work by: 1) increasing the number of quality Idaho charter school seats by no fewer than 5,900 students, especially for our most educationally disadvantaged and rural students through start-up, replication, and expansion; 2) supporting quality authorizing in Idaho while disseminating and supporting best authorizer practices statewide; and 3) evaluating and sharing the successes and lessons of high-quality charter schools to impact the broader education system. The CSP support requested in this proposal will expand the educational opportunities available to students and families across the great state of Idaho, while

### DEBBIE CRITCHFIELD SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



650 W. STATE STREET, 2ND FLOOR BOISE, IDAHO 83702 (208) 332-6800 OFFICE / 711 TRS WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

also fostering the ongoing development of strong charter authorizers like the Idaho Public Charter School Commission.

Critical to this proposal's objectives, Bluum will continue its collaboration with key state partners. Bluum's partners are numerous and come from both the public and the nonprofit sectors. The most important are the Idaho State Board of Education, my office, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, the non-profit school facilities finance group Building Hope, the Idaho Charter School Network, and individual charter school operators and governing boards.

I urge you to support Idaho's ongoing work to expand and improve our charter school community by giving this application your full consideration. This CSP grant will bring expanded educational opportunities to Idaho families, as well as help prepare all Idaho students for success in life, college and career.

Thank you for considering this application.

Debbne Critchfield

Sincerely,

Debbie Critchfield

Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction



PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

STATE CAPITOL P.O. BOX 83720 BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0081 (208) 332-1300 cwinder@senate.idaho.gov

May 18, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

RE: Letter of Support for Bluum's Application for Federal Charter School Program Grant Funding

#### Dear Secretary Cardona:

I am writing to express support for the Federal Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Funding application submitted by Bluum, Idaho's leading nonprofit statewide charter school support entity. I have long supported the growth of strong schools in our state and are proud to support the work represented by Bluum's Building on Success for Future Excellence CSP proposal.

Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, which has presented both challenges and opportunities in education. In recent years, the public and private sectors have come together to ensure students of all backgrounds in even our most rural communities have access to high-quality education. Bluum's proposal builds on the momentum of Idaho's 2018 Communities of Excellence CSP grant award (2018-23). In large part through Bluum's strong management of this \$22 million CSP grant, Idaho's public charter school sector has been one of the nation's fastest growing and highest achieving over the last five years, having grown from 52 schools serving 22,000 students to 70 schools serving over 30,000 students. During this period, the Bluum-managed Communities of Excellence CSP Grant funded growth at 28 charter schools with an expected 11,467 seats to be created.

Many of the state's highest performing public schools on state ISAT achievement tests in both English Language Arts and mathematics are perennially charter schools. The same holds for the SAT. Idaho charter school students show more academic growth than their peers in traditional district schools, and this is true of all students, economically disadvantaged students and minority students.

Bluum's Building on Success for Future Excellence CSP proposal expands on this innovative work by: 1) increasing the number of quality Idaho charter school seats by no less than 5,900 students, especially for

our most educationally disadvantaged and rural students through start-up, replication, and expansion; 2) supporting quality authorizing in Idaho while disseminating and supporting best authorizer practices statewide; and 3) evaluating and sharing the successes and lessons of high-quality charter schools to impact the broader education system. The CSP support requested in this proposal will expand the educational opportunities available to students and families across the great state of Idaho, while also fostering the ongoing development of strong charter authorizers like the Idaho Public Charter School Commission.

Critical to this proposal's objectives, Bluum will continue its collaboration with key state partners. Bluum's partners are numerous and come from both the public and the nonprofit sectors. The most important are the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, the non-profit school facilities finance group Building Hope, the Idaho Charter School Network, and individual charter school operators and governing boards.

I urge you to support Idaho's ongoing work to expand and improve our charter school community by giving this application your full consideration. This CSP grant will bring expanded educational opportunities to Idaho families, as well as help prepare all Idaho students for success in life, college, and career.

Thank you for considering this application.

Mude Mlande

Sincerely.

Chuck Winder President Pro Tempore

**Idaho State Senate** 

CW/rw





**514** W. Jefferson, Ste. 303 **Bo**ise, ID 83702 **208**-332-1561 • pcsc@osbe.idaho.gov

May 29, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

RE: Letter of Support for Bluum's Application for Federal Charter School Program Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Cardona,

I am writing to express support for the Federal Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Funding application submitted by Bluum, Idaho's leading nonprofit statewide charter school support entity. I have long supported the growth of strong schools in our state and am proud to support the work represented by Bluum's *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal.

Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, which has presented both challenges and opportunities in education. In recent years, the public and private sectors have come together to ensure students of all backgrounds in even our most rural communities have access to high-quality education. Bluum's proposal builds on the momentum of Idaho's 2018 *Communities of Excellence* CSP grant award (2018-23). In large part through Bluum's strong management of this \$22 million CSP grant, Idaho's public charter school sector has been one of the nation's **fastest growing** and **highest achieving** over the last five years, having grown from 52 schools serving 22,000 students to 70 schools serving over 30,000 students. During this period, the Bluum-managed *Communities of Excellence* CSP Grant funded growth at 28 charter schools with an expected 11,467 seats to be created.

Many of the state's highest performing public schools on state ISAT achievement tests in both English Language Arts and mathematics are perennially charter schools. The same holds for the SAT. Idaho charter school students show more academic growth than their peers in traditional district schools, and this is true of all students, economically disadvantaged students and minority students.

Bluum's *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal expands on this innovative work by: 1) increasing the number of quality Idaho charter school seats by no less than 5,900 students, especially for our most educationally disadvantaged and rural students through start-up, replication, and expansion; 2) supporting quality authorizing in Idaho while disseminating and supporting best authorizer practices statewide; and 3) evaluating and sharing the successes and lessons of high-quality charter schools to impact the broader education system. The CSP support requested in this proposal will expand the

educational opportunities available to students and families across the great state of Idaho, while also fostering the ongoing development of strong charter authorizers like the Idaho Public Charter School Commission.

Critical to this proposal's objectives, Bluum will continue its collaboration with key state partners. Bluum's partners are numerous and come from both the public and the nonprofit sectors. The most important are the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, the non-profit school facilities finance group Building Hope, the Idaho Charter School Network, and individual charter school operators and governing boards.

I urge you to support Idaho's ongoing work to expand and improve our charter school community by giving this application your full consideration. This CSP grant will bring expanded educational opportunities to Idaho families, as well as help prepare all Idaho students for success in life, college and career.

Thank you for considering this application.

Sincerely,

Alan L. Reed

Chair, Idaho Public Charter School Commission



650 W. State Street • Room 307 • Boise, ID • 83702 P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, ID • 83720-0037

May 26, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

RE: Letter of Support for Bluum's Application for Federal Charter School Program Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Cardona,

I am writing to express support for the Federal Charter School Program (CSP) Grant Funding application submitted by Bluum, Idaho's leading nonprofit statewide charter school support entity. I have long supported the growth of strong schools in our state and are proud to support the work represented by Bluum's *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal.

Idaho is one of the fastest growing states in the nation, which has presented both challenges and opportunities in education. In recent years, the public and private sectors have come together to ensure students of all backgrounds in even our most rural communities have access to high-quality education. Bluum's proposal builds on the momentum of Idaho's 2018 *Communities of Excellence* CSP grant award (2018-23). In large part through Bluum's strong management of this \$22 million CSP grant, Idaho's public charter school sector has been one of the nation's **fastest growing** and **highest achieving** over the last five years, having grown from 52 schools serving 22,000 students to 70 schools serving over 30,000 students. During this period, the Bluum-managed *Communities of Excellence* CSP Grant funded growth at 28 charter schools with an expected 11,467 seats to be created.

Many of the state's highest performing public schools on state ISAT achievement tests in both English Language Arts and mathematics are perennially charter schools. The same holds for the SAT. Idaho charter school students show more academic growth than their

peers in traditional district schools, and this is true of all students, economically disadvantaged students and minority students.

Bluum's *Building on Success for Future Excellence* CSP proposal expands on this innovative work by: 1) increasing the number of quality Idaho charter school seats by no less than 5,900 students, especially for our most educationally disadvantaged and rural students through start-up, replication, and expansion; 2) supporting quality authorizing in Idaho while disseminating and supporting best authorizer practices statewide; and 3) evaluating and sharing the successes and lessons of high-quality charter schools to impact the broader education system. The CSP support requested in this proposal will expand the educational opportunities available to students and families across the great state of Idaho, while also fostering the ongoing development of strong charter authorizers like the Idaho Public Charter School Commission.

Critical to this proposal's objectives, Bluum will continue its collaboration with key state partners. Bluum's partners are numerous and come from both the public and the nonprofit sectors. The most important are the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, the non-profit school facilities finance group Building Hope, the Idaho Charter School Network, and individual charter school operators and governing boards.

I urge you to support Idaho's ongoing work to expand and improve our charter school community by giving this application your full consideration. This CSP grant will bring expanded educational opportunities to Idaho families, as well as help prepare all Idaho students for success in life, college and career.

Thank you for considering this application.

Sincerely,

Linda Clark

President, Idaho State Board of Education

Alex Medler, PhD
Executive Director
National Network for District Authorizing
1070 Edinboro Drive
Boulder, CO 80305
Alex.Medler@NN4DA.org
(720) 635-8329

NATIONAL NETWORK
FOR DISTRICT AUTHORIZING

May 15, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary, United States Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona,

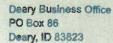
I am writing to express my support for Bluum's application under the Charter Schools Program's State Entities (SE) competition (ALN 84.282A). We have worked with Bluum in the past and plan to continue to partner with them to support their efforts to strengthen charter school authorizing in Idaho. This new grant will allow Bluum to deepen their impact and to grow an even stronger Idaho charter school community. We are excited to partner with Bluum and commit to supporting their effort to strengthen charter school authorizing. Together we intend to encourage and support local school districts in their own efforts to become strong charter school authorizers.

The National Network for District Authorizing (NN4DA) directs a national project, the NN4DA Collaboration Initiative, which supports state partners like Bluum in their work to strengthen charter school authorizing. The team in Idaho has worked to support strong authorizing in the past and we believe this grant will further that effort and deepen its impact. As a network of state partners that is led by veteran charter school authorizers, the NN4DA is excited to partner with Idaho as the state develops its own network of district authorizers and refines resources based on best practices that match the Idaho context. The SE grant would allow Bluum to develop additional resources and to build a strong community among Idaho's district authorizers.

We are eager to continue partnering with them. We will use our own project to continue to support their successful implementation of a new SE grant. The NN4DA strongly supports this CSP application.

Sincerely,

Alex Medler
Executive Director
National Network for District Authorizing





The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

RE: Letter of Support for Bluum's Application for Federal Charter School Program Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Cardona,

I write to express my support with BLUUM in their application for Charter Schools Program (CSP) funds. Some of our schools have been the recipients of previous CSP grants which were administered by BLUUM. Our experience has been that BLUUM has been an excellent administrator of these funds.

BLUUM has met and exceeded their previous goals with prior CSP funds. There is no doubt they would do the same with another round of funding. BLUUM takes their role very seriously with these funds and holds schools accountable to meeting all the grant criteria. They also understand Idaho's educational and political landscape, which allows them to help schools prioritize and navigate the various entities that are tied to their success.

I fully support BLUUM's application for CSP grant funding. I further encourage your consideration BLUUM's application based on their track record of success in the launch and expansion of excellent Idaho charter schools. There is simply no entity that I am aware of who is more capable of delivering results with these funds.

Sincerely.

Jason Bransford

**Chief Executive Officer** 

Gem Prep Schools

208-238-1388

jasonbransford@geminnovation.org









#### Engage! Inspire! Ignite!

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

#### **Board of Directors**

Erik Bullock ebullock@elevate2c.org

RE: Letter of Support for Bluum's Application for Federal Charter School Program Grant Funding

#### **Brooke Stevenson**

bsteven son@elevate2c.org

Amy Rojas

Becki Woodbury bwoodbury@elevate2c.org

Kellie Foreman kforeman@elevate2c.org

Aldolfo Valdez avaldez@elevate2c.org

Gilbert Longoria glongoria@elevate2c.org

Dear Secretary Cardona,

I write to express my support with BLUUM in their application for Charter Schools Program

(CSP) funds. Some of our schools have been the recipients of previous CSP grants which were administered by BLUUM. Our experience has been that BLUUM has been an excellent administrator of these funds.

BLUUM has met and exceeded their previous goals with prior CSP funds. There is no doubt they would do the same with another round of funding. BLUUM takes their role very seriously with these funds and holds schools accountable to meeting all the grant criteria. They also understand Idaho's educational and political landscape, which allows them to help schools prioritize and navigate the various entities that are tied to their success.

I fully support BLUUM's application for CSP grant funding. I further encourage your consideration BLUUM's application based on their track record of success in the launch and expansion of excellent Idaho charter schools. There is simply no entity that I am aware of who is more capable of delivering results with these funds.

Sincerely,

Monica White

Co-Founder & Chief Visionary Officer

**Elevate Academy Network Schools** 

208-504-0730 ext: 403

**Founders** 

mwhite@elevate208.org

Matt Strong mstrong@elevate208.org

Monica White mwhite@elevate208.org



May 15, 2023

The Honorable Miguel Cardona Secretary of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

RE: Letter of Support for BLUUM's Application for Charter School Program Grant Funding

Dear Secretary Cardona,

I respectfully offer my strongest endorsement for BLUUM and their application for Charter School Program (CSP) funds. Our schools are recipients of CSP funds administered by BLUUM.

BLUUM has executed its public role as CSP grant administrator for Idaho in an exceptionally professional manner. BLUUM is an excellent and serious steward of these public funds and approaches that responsibility with great care. Our schools have been held accountable for grant requirements while also receiving guidance and assistance on grant execution where needed.

BLUUM's reputation in Idaho is peerless. As a well-known charter support entity with a state-wide reach, BLUUM singularly focuses on improving student outcomes while also helping to incubate high quality educational choices for students and parents. It is hard to imagine a better choice to shepherd the CSP program.

I strongly encourage you to allow BLUUM to continue their track record of excellence as Idaho's CSP administrator!

Respectfully,

S. P. Lambert Executive Director 208-217-0859 slambert@acs-id.org

### FILER HIGH SCHOOL

3915 NORTH WILDCAT WAY FILER, IDAHO 83828 208-326-5944 Office 208-326-3419 Fax Principal - Shane Hild
Associate Principal - Katie Williams
Athletic Director - Kristan Young
Counselor - Krystal Koelling
Counselor - Lauren Jackson
Business Manager - Jennifer Cowger
Admin Asst./Attendance - Jennifer Christensen

April 4, 2023

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing in support of the BLUUM Fellowship Program receiving grant money from the Department of Education to continue its work in developing and hosting professional development opportunities for educational leaders around Idaho. Last spring I applied to be a part of the new cohort that began late this summer. I didn't know what to expect, but I have been impressed and surprised by the level of professional development that I've had the opportunity to be part of.

In rural Idaho, we don't have as many opportunities or resources as some of the more urban areas in the state to work with the kind of professional educational talent and leadership that this Fellowship has been able to provide. I have been a school administrator for more than 10 years and have participated in different professional development opportunities during that time provided by state agencies as well as universities. None of those have compared to the organization and continuity of the BLUUM Fellowship Program. Their offerings focus on two significant areas: technical skills (like organization and planning), but also soft skills (like communication, leadership styles, and working with adults to get the best out of them).

I wholeheartedly support their efforts to continue the program and hope that they are successful in their grant pursuit because so many other Idaho administrators could benefit from the Fellowship. It truly is a step above anything else I've experienced.

Sincerely,

Shane Hild, Ed.S.

Principal