



January 2, 2007

To Whom it May Concern:

I am currently Superintendent of Schools for Springfield School District and in this capacity I had the privilege to be involved in community activities with Bahati Myhelatu Ansari. I know her as a tireless, innovative leader who will do what ever it takes to enhance the life of all students and especially at-risk students. As a result, it is an honor to write this letter of recommendation on her behalf.

Bahati was known in our community for her talents in the area of human and race relations. She was committed to quality professional development training to ensure all educators had the tools they needed to make all students successful. She was one of the leaders in the creation and implementation of a Closing the Achievement Conference, which turned out to be a great success in our community and beyond.

In addition Bahati is always one of the first to share a new resource or a new idea that could improve the quality of life for all of us in our community. Although she currently is living in Albuquerque, New Mexico she stays in touch to share all that she knows. This level of commitment is far beyond what I experience from most of my colleagues.

The following are some of the skills that I believe make Bahati an exceptional leader. They are:

Bahati is a committed leader. She has a strong sense of social justice, which is at the core of her leadership style. This commitment led her to creating the first MLK Jr. Day city-wide Celebration in Eugene and serving on The Oregon Human Rights Commission. Although Bahati is not a person who seeks recognition, the community felt she needed to be recognized for her commitment and as a result she was the first recipient to the "Rainbow Award".

Bahati is a connector. Bahati has amazing relationship talent, which allows her to connect easily with people. She was known and respected by so many people in our community and through these connections she could easily leverage resources. These resources would be human resources as well as financial resources to support her work with the Rites of Passage Project at our community college.

Bahati has deep content knowledge. Bahati was known in our community for her deep content knowledge in the areas of achievement gap, diversity issues and training, developing college success programs, drug and alcohol programs, early childhood development and the list goes on and on. Many of us would turn to Bahati for her knowledge in these areas.

In summary Bahati is a person with tremendous energy, deep content knowledge in many key areas and the relationship skills to successfully implement the mission and vision of the African American Cultural Association. I wholeheartedly support her for the position of Executive Director of your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Golden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Nancy Golden, Superintendent
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