**Michelle Randall Ament**

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**OBJECTIVE: Innovative Educational Leader**

To be a leader of an innovative school, working to change the academic experience for all learners. Passionately leading schools to create creative, personalized learning thriving on critical thinking and collaboration as a means of creating twenty-first century problem solvers, inquiry based thinkers and global leaders.

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership: Minnesota State University, Mankato (graduate May 2013)

Master of Education, Teaching and Learning: St. Mary’s University (1999)

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education: Gustavus Adolphus College (1996)

Licensure: State of Minnesota – Elementary Education K-6

**LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**Administrative Team Member – Cedar Park STEM School (2012 – present)**

As a member of the administrative team, I have developed a positive teaching environment through my support of Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s). I am a leader in the Literacy Collaborative, a district-wide literacy initiative. This includes leading a team of 12 interventionist in analyzing K-5 Benchmark Assessment Data, engaging in decision-making around literacy interventions and creating a school-wide intervention schedule. I manage student discipline with the Responsive Classroom framework and promote these principles throughout the school day. Through daily communication with staff and parents by way of podcasts, blogs, Facebook and Twitter I have built a strong school community.

**STEM Integration Specialist – Cedar Park STEM School (2012 – present)**

As a visionary leader in the area of STEM instruction, I lead my organization as well as stakeholders in the community to formulate plans and goals to improve STEM strategies district wide as well as work to implement educational reform towards best practices of 21st Century learning. I lead teams in focused STEM curriculum writing using Understanding by Design methodology. I collaborate to align these units of study with the Common Core standards and fully integrate literacy.

**Technology Leadership-** provided professional development for ISD 196 staff on applications such as Smart Notebook, Web 2.0, Moodle, and Apple iLife. Presented ideas for integrating technology into the curriculum. TIES 2009 & 2012 Conference Featured Speaker. Created and maintained several Blogs for “flipped” professional development as well as parent communication through Facebook and Twitter.

**Understanding by Design (UbD) Lead Curriculum Writer**

**District STEM Leadership Team, ISD 196**

**Gifted and Talented Advisory Council, ISD 196**

**Principal’s Site Council** (2009-current)

**QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAININGS**

**Inquiry Based Learning**

Inquiry Circles – Comprehension & Collaboration, District 196 training

Engineering: Moving Beyond the Kit by Science Museum of Minnesota

Inquiry in Literacy, Hamline University

Inquiry in Science, Hamline University

Inquiry in Math, Hamline University

Inquiry All Year Long, Hamline University

Interactive Notebooks, Hamline University

Questioning to Differentiate the Curriculum, Hamline University

**Special Populations of Students**

Beyond Diversity Training, Pacific Educational Group

Internationalism, Multiculturalism, and Diversity, MN Humanities Center

MindsetSeminar, Carol Dweck

Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) Seminar

Classroom Management for Diverse Learners, Hamline University

**Technology Leadership**

Google Apps/Docs

Web 2.0 Tools and Professional Learning Network through various social networking

Smart Notebook (Basic & Advanced)

Apple iLife and iWork

Google Earth and Sketch Up

Smart Response System

Moodle (Level I & II)

Digital Storytelling, St. Thomas University

**Gifted and Talented Cluster Teacher**

Developed scope and sequence for ISD 196 M3 (Mentoring Mathematical Minds)

Innovative ideas for differentiating curriculum of gifted learners

**Collaborative Teaching Model** - Trained as ELL and Gifted and Talented collaborator

**Responsive Classroom** Level I & II

**PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support)**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Administrative Team/STEM Integration Specialist (2012-present)**

**5th Grade Classroom Teacher at Diamond Path School of International Studies (2007-2012)**

Wrote curriculum to integrate global studies into literacy, science and social studies.

Lead Science Teacher

Project M3 (Mentoring Mathematical Minds) Lead Teacher

Coordinated: Festival of Nations, Geography Night and Inquiry Night

**Young Scholar/Enrichment Specialist (2006-2007)**

Developed curriculum to support and nurture the needs of diverse learners.

Collaborated with classroom teachers to provide learning opportunities for students with diverse backgrounds.

**South St. Paul School District (1996-2001)**

5th and 6th Grade

Lead Science Teacher

Trainer for Everyday Math Series

**References:**

Principal at Cedar Park STEM Elementary - John Garcia

952 431-8360 [john.garcia@district196.org](mailto:john.garcia@district196.org)

Innovative Programs Coordinator – Cathy Kindem

651 423-7617 [cathy.kindem@district196.org](mailto:cathy.kindem@district196.org)

Teacher at Cedar Park STEM Elementary – Ken Nygren

952 431-8360 [ken.nygren@district196.org](mailto:ken.nygren@district196.org)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my interest in an administrative position. I am passionate about innovative ideas, technology and the collaboration among teachers.  I embrace these ideas and want to lead teachers to implement 21st Century skills to create successful schools focusing on student achievement.

I am completing my Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato and have a Masters Degree in Education from St. Mary’s University. In addition, I have a degree in elementary education from Gustavus Adolphus College and hold a K-5 Minnesota teaching license. I am currently working as a teacher on special assignment (TOSA) at Cedar Park STEM Elementary School in Independent School District 196. I serve as a member of an administrative team along with being the STEM Integration Specialist.

As a member of the administrative team, I am a leader in the creation and execution of both formative and summative assessments. I am a key leader in the implementation the Benchmark Assessment System through our Literacy Collaborative initiative. As the site administrator of the data analysis tool, North Star, I lead teachers through the analysis of literacy data. I am directly involved with each Professional Learning Community (PLC) and together we analyze math and literacy data and use this to align Tier One instruction to meet the individual needs of students. I work closely with our Interventionists (Special Education, English Language Learners, Title One, GT and Reading Recovery) as we use assessment data to make decisions about Tier Two instruction. My experience around data also includes using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores as a predictor of success on MCA III tests. Specifically in regards to analyzing interventions being provided to underserved populations as a means for closing the achievement gap.

As a visionary leader in the area of STEM instruction, I guide my organization as well as community stakeholders to formulate plans and goals to improve STEM strategies district wide. I have a passion for designing and implementing curriculum and through this my creativity; innovation and desire to provide culturally relevant instruction can be seen. I lead teams in focused STEM curriculum writing using Understanding by Design methodology. Embracing the pedagogy of inquiry, utilizing the Habits of the Mind and fostering creativity through the use of technology are the cornerstones of curriculum. Additionally, I collaborate with teachers to align these units of study with the Common Core standards.

I am an advanced technology user who has integrated technology into the classroom setting as well as through my role as an educational leader. I believe in using technology as a means of collaborating and communicating in the classroom as well as globally. Through daily communication with staff and parents by way of podcasts, blogs, Facebook and Twitter I have built a strong school community.

I believe I am a strong candidate for this position and hope you will consider me this position.I look forward for the opportunity to share with you my leadership experiences and my potential with you. Please take a minute to view my portfolio at <http://michelleament.efoliomn.com>

Sincerely,

Michelle Ament

To Whom It May Concern,

I am delighted to write this letter of recommendation for Michelle Ament. Michelle currently serves as a member of our administrative team at Cedar Park STEM School in Apple Valley, MM. I am impressed with Michelle’s innovative leadership.

Michelle is passionate about putting technology in the hands of students to promote learning. Students are encouraged to Blog about their STEM work, use iPads to research scientific facts and work with one another via the school’s protected server. Michelle has also been a key architect in supporting teachers with technology, encouraging new learning through Flipped Classrooms, Blogging and Smart Lessons.

Ms. Ament is a critical thinker; she takes a strong science curriculum and finds creative ways to expand the learning for students by integrating learning targets. Michelle excites teachers by helping them plan, collaborate and implement newly improved curriculum.

Michelle has successfully executed important administrative duties at Cedar Park. Michelle has managed student discipline and bus issues and has worked with parents to improve communication between school and home. Michelle contributes to our administrative team by assisting with school-wide planning efforts, serving on our school leadership team and is our Magnet TOSA.

Ms. Ament clearly demonstrates leadership acumen across many areas. She is dependable, creative and innovative. Michelle does not shy away from a challenge; she continuously seeks opportunities to improve her leadership. I am impressed with

Michelle’s ability to think like an administrator while grounding herself as a teacher.

I fully support Michelle and appreciate her commitment to education. She is a strong leader and continues to grow every day she is in her role at Cedar Park STEM. Michelle Ament has all the skills required to be a successful principal and I strongly encourage you to consider Ms. Ament for an administrative position in your district.

Sincerely,

John Garcia, Principal

To Whom It May Concern:

Michelle Ament is an exemplary candidate for a principal position at your school. As a Magnet Coordinator/Administrative Assistant she is well versed in the many aspects of school administration; budgeting, curriculum development and implementation, student achievement and testing, ongoing staff development and professional learning communities (PLCs), reflective thinking about staff feedback to make decisions, and ways to distinguish and spotlight a school's programming.

Cedar Park is a sixth year STEM school that Michelle has helped to shape and refine during the past year. She is knowledgeable about curriculum development and the corresponding staff development necessary to maintain a STEM program while juggling the district, state, and national mandates for language arts and math. She has insured that teachers are trained and feel capable to implement the new reading assessment, Benchmark Assessment System, in our school. She helped implement a rotating weekly schedule of STEM, reading, and math PLC's to help teachers plan for instruction that will help students meet the states AYP goals and MCA targets, while maintaining adequate time for staff to plan and prepare for the day. She is well versed in the benefits of data driven instruction. Michelle is coordinating the use test data at Cedar Park to determine student instructional goals and remediation/general service in math and reading.

Michelle has many personal traits that will make her an excellent principal. Michelle seeks and gathers input from staff and colleagues to help her make decisions. She communicates in a clear and timely manner. Michelle is also organized and well prepared. She commands with authority and respect, yet communicates in a caring manner toward others. Her expectations are clearly conveyed to people in both her words and through her actions. She holds people to high standards in their work and their behavior. Michelle is composed and patient in dealing with people and situations. She is always level headed and not easily perturbed. She makes decisions in a respectful, professional manner.

Working at Cedar Park Elementary School with over 650 students and 75 staff members has provided Michelle with valuable experience in dealing with many program and budgetary concerns. Cedar Park STEM provides an array of educational activities that few people would have the opportunity to oversee and coordinate in the elementary setting. All day kindergarten, ELL, Title 1, STEM Specialists, Off-site Field Studies, After School Classes, and Explore Classes are a few the many programming and budgetary areas Michelle has aptly dealt with during the year.

Michelle Ament is very proactive and positive in addressing the needs of students and staff at Cedar Park STEM Elementary. She strives to meet our school's needs through cooperative thinking, dialogue, and action with the stakeholders in the school. I have had the opportunity to work with Michelle in my position as fifth grade Team Leader and recommend Michelle with no reservations. Michelle Ament, as a principal, will be an asset, to any school, or school district, and its students.

Sincerely,

Ken Nygren