

# CITY OF ADA *Alive and Thriving!*

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April 30, 2018

Dear Ada-Borup School Board,

I am writing this letter to enthusiastically endorse Shawn Yates' candidacy for the Superintendent position. Shawn is a visionary leader as well as a strategic thinker that in just one year, has rapidly improved our school system while leading efforts to consolidate multiple school districts. His community relations skills are unparalleled. Shawn led complex negotiations and using his superb finance and budgetary experience, was able to develop and deploy a clear plan for consolidation. Today, those efforts are underway as a direct result of his honesty and leadership.

In addition to his innovative leadership skills, Dr. Yates offers a progressive pedagogy. Knowing that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century for Rural America faces a challenging employment landscape, Shawn has been able to work with the City of Ada as well as other communities in Norman County on developing curriculum that meets skill set requirements for the current and the next generations. This includes a highly technical competency where working with City Administration and the federal government led to the creation of a Business Incubation Center in Ada. This facility served multiple purposes for developing future entrepreneurs as well as assisted the City in reducing blighted properties thereby contributing to community enhancement on several levels.

Overall, Dr. Yates is a highly communicative leader who works extraordinarily well with his peer group while fostering critical career mentorship for his staff. On numerous occasions, I have observed his leadership abilities and I rarely see so many quality attributes in one professional. Shawn's ability to move so much in one year in Ada is simply exceptional and he will surely continue to add value to our school district as well as community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and frankly, I am honored to endorse Dr. Yates as well as educate my children under his leadership!



James Leiman  
Administrator