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Community Consolidated School District 15

Conyers Learning Academy
2800 Central Rd
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

Matt Warren
Principal

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March 19, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

Elise Hackl, our Adaptive Music Teacher, is an outstanding educator whose contributions to Conyers Learning Academy and District 15 exemplify excellence and is deserving of a Those Who Excel Award in the Early Career Educator category.

Although Elise is only at CLA two days a week, she makes a full time contribution to our building. Elise has used her background as a special educator and music educator to guide our students to learn musical concepts and skills not previously attempted in the adaptive music program. Our students with significant special needs have learned to play instruments, read music, and perform at concerts as a result of her hard work, passion, and enthusiasm.

Even though Elise is only in her fourth year teaching, she demonstrates a level of competence and maturity of a more experienced teacher. In addition to her outstanding work at CLA, Elise teaches adaptive music in four other schools for the students in the MILE and SIP programs throughout the district. Just as she does at CLA, Elise builds strong relationships, sets high expectations, and gets to know each of her students on an individual level at the other four schools she serves.

Elise's excellence does not stop in her classroom. Elise has worked closely with the staff at CLA to create an After School Club for our students in our Therapeutic Day School. The majority of these students do not have the opportunity to participate in athletics or activities after school. Elise identified an area of need for our students, created a way for them to actively participate, and now volunteers her time each month to plan and coordinate the club for the students. Additionally, Elise prepares and leads three concerts a year, collaborates with regular education music teachers, piloted the use of Chromebooks in her classroom, is the leader of CLA's Social Committee, and is one of our building's CTC Union Representatives. Elise handles all of these additional responsibilities with grace and a high degree of organization and professionalism.

Overall, Elise contributes so much more to our school than teaching our students music. She is an advocate for some of our districts' neediest students, a role model for fellow teachers, and an innovative educator. Elise is talented beyond her years and is well deserving of the honor of the Those Who Excel Award.

Sincerely,

Matt Warren, Christy Loh, and Pam Stutzman
CLA Administrative Team

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