



October 15, 2025

Dear Marcus Foster Distinguished Educator Award Selection Committee:

I am pleased to offer my wholehearted support for Dr. Reggie Wicker as a nominee for the Marcus Foster Distinguished Educator Award. In my experience working alongside Dr. Wicker, I have been continually impressed by his commitment to transformative leadership, innovative problem-solving, and advocacy for equitable education.

Dr. Wicker has consistently demonstrated a unique ability to identify challenges within the educational system and implement practical, sustainable solutions. For instance, his dedication to addressing teacher shortages is evident through initiatives that cultivate talent from within the school community, providing opportunities for support staff to pursue certification and grow into classroom leadership roles. This approach not only strengthens the workforce but also inspires colleagues and students alike.

Beyond recruitment, Dr. Wicker's work emphasizes community engagement and student empowerment. He actively partners with local organizations, higher education institutions, and faith-based programs to create meaningful learning experiences for students and families. Programs he has supported, such as summer mentorship initiatives and youth-focused community events, foster lasting connections and reinforce the value of education in students' lives.

What distinguishes Dr. Wicker is his visionary perspective and ability to effect systemic change. He does not simply implement programs; he carefully considers long-term impact, ensuring that initiatives are scalable, equitable, and replicable. His efforts have strengthened school communities, provided diverse pathways into the teaching profession, and improved educational outcomes across multiple districts.

Dr. Wicker's leadership has been recognized by numerous organizations, affirming the scope and significance of his work. Beyond awards and accolades, however, it is the lasting, positive influence on students, educators, and communities that truly reflects his excellence as a leader in education. It is without hesitation that I endorse Dr. Reggie Wicker for the Marcus Foster Distinguished Educator Award. His dedication, innovation, and ability to inspire systemic change exemplify the qualities this award seeks to honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tamara', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dr. Tamara Turner  
Chief Human Resources Officer