



RAVE Nominee

Name: Mark Eriksson

Department/School: Mission High School

Title: CAT Program Teacher

Why are you nominating this employee?

Mark Eriksson is an example of a teacher who is dedicated to his chosen profession and who consistently makes extraordinary efforts to meet the individual needs of his students. He has expended many extra hours trying to provide my daughter what she needs despite the challenges of his classroom and the current configuration of the CAT classes. He is an outstanding example of professionalism mixed with genuine concern for educating special needs students and is proactive about addressing needs and communicating with parents.

What are some of the positive qualities that distinguish this employee's work?

Professionalism, intelligence, genuine concern for students' welfare and future, "thinks outside the box" to solve problems, is very approachable and communicative, works many, many hours outside the normal school hours, energetic, positive, committed to best practices, maintains high expectations for his students, is willing to learn about changes in Special Education law and policy

Please give us a specific example of something that this employee did/does that you would like to recognize:

My 19 year old daughter is on the autism spectrum, is quite high functioning, and entered Mark's classroom this past August. Her IEP required academic instruction (as required by IDEA 2004) which had not been implemented at her CATS program last year. Despite the fact that Mark has not been provided a curriculum, had not been trained on the 2004 IDEA amendments and that his other students abilities are incredibly diverse but do not include academic needs, Mark has tried to include reading and math instruction and has worked with me and with the Special Ed administration to try implement her goals and meet her needs so that she can be admitted to Taft college as her post-secondary education.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about why you think this employee should be recognized?

Mark educated himself on the law, proactively engaged in getting my daughter help, organized an IEP team meeting where my daughter's new IEP has goals that will assist her gain the maximum independence possible. All of this required an open mind and heart, a dedication to individual needs of students and a cordial and cooperative manner. Moreover, Mark has spent an incredible amount of time outside the school day on this issue. I have personally observed that Mark works with each of his students to work toward meeting their individual goals. He is an example of excellence in teaching!

Nominated By: current SFUSD parent