



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner
Scott Swisher, Ed.D., Deputy Commissioner

301 Centennial Mall South Tel: (402) 471-2295
PO Box 94987 Fax: (402) 471-0117
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987 Web: www.education.ne.gov

To: Principal, Superintendent, Assistant Principal, Assistant Superintendent
From: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner of Education
Date: March 11, 2014
Re: Talent Pool Recommendations

The State of Nebraska maintains a file of emerging classroom leaders that consists of a cadre of distinguished teachers and principals. These educators may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for special recognition programs. Your recommendations will identify educators who are of great value to your community and state and who may also ultimately receive prestigious recognition.

We are very fortunate to have a rich base of veteran educators represented in our current talent pool. They have been and continue to be a valuable resource in our state efforts. What is particularly lacking at this time is representation from **elementary (K-5)** educators relatively new to the profession who *demonstrate outstanding instructional and leadership ability. We are looking for educators with at least five years of experience, especially. This would include educators receiving Bachelor's degrees after the year 2000. These individuals should exhibit strong potential for professional leadership and inspiring presence that impacts students, colleagues, and community.*

Do you know an educator who is illustrative of the best, not only in Nebraska, but also in the nation? Whose lessons provide models for others? Who has distinguished himself/herself above and beyond established top-quality professionals in many of our schools? Candidates are building level personnel. They are typically classroom teachers as opposed to specialists and are recognized by peers and supervisors as unique in their growth. Previous recognition is not required. **In fact, of special interest are educators who are outstanding, but have not received other recognition.**

Please provide **CONFIDENTIAL**, succinct, and specific information regarding a candidate on the enclosed form. All questions must be answered, preferably typewritten. **Please include a one-page narrative with this form that addresses how the candidate meets the criteria mentioned in this letter, and also a resume from their personnel file. We ask that you keep this recommendation confidential and do not share it with the individual.** I urge you to take the time to recommend a candidate. If necessary, please assign the request to an associate. Complete information must be sent by **June 13, 2014** to:

Lora Sypal, Executive Office Associate
Office of the Commissioner
Nebraska Department of Education
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Attachment

The recommendation can be keyed electronically, printed and then submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education.