



December 14, 2016

Darrell Lynn Hines Academy is an upcoming premier school. I am writing to support the achievements of the school. Beginning in 2013, Voyager Sopris Learning Education Services began working with Darrell Lynn Hines Academy as the lead turnaround partner to help improve student performance. During our time with the school, the administration team and teacher leaders have collaborated, deliberated, researched, and learned new ways to put systems and processes in place with sustainability to ensure student achievement.

The school leadership started with a clear mission and vision centered on students achievement. Next, they investigated best instructional practices, learned TQM tools for systematic planning, and sought suggestions regarding the use of data to drive instruction from expert consultants for the optimum teaching and learning environment. Using Saturdays and after school meetings, they implemented their knowledge and tools to establish systems and processes for student success.

A few of these systems included establishing a data storage system as evidence that classroom instructional practices were working and a systemic plan for data review by the leadership team and teachers. Within these systems, processes were defined which included authentic learning performance assessments and standardized lesson planning based on standards-based instruction.

Voyager Sopris Learning's journey with the school has been a rewarding one as I can be a witness to the actual teaching and learning that takes place in the school. I know the school will continue to improve with students' best academic, social, and emotional interest at heart and Voyager Sopris Learning is here to help and support them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gayle Owens, Ed.D." in a cursive script.

Gayle Owens, Ed.D.
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