



Fremont High School

Home of the Silverwolves

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Principal: Alicia Mitchell **Assistant Principals:** Shane Denton, Hal Raymond, Cari Fredrickson

October 9, 2023

Dear Selection Committee:

It is with great pride, admiration, and pleasure that I nominate Mr. Abe Dalebout, owner of Coleman Knitting Mills, as a nominee for the Partners in Education Award with the Weber School District. Coleman Knitting Mills is a nationally renowned company that has been in business since 1947. They have been able to support athletic programs across the country and have provided letterman jackets, cheer wear, school club and officer sweaters, and official lettering emblems for schools. Abe has always been a huge supporter of Fremont athletic programs as well as other athletic programs across the top of northern Utah. He most recently has been instrumental in helping to create mockups for the new schools Westfield High School and Mountain View Junior High Schools logos. Abe also owns Intermountain T-Shirts and has been able to help provide and donate swag and gear to local schools, including Fremont, for many years. Abe has a deep love of community, and has a natural and friendly way of connecting with those around him. He is service-minded at heart. There has never been a time when I have called Abe that he has not been willing to help. Abe's consistent partnership at Fremont and within the district has been pivotal throughout the years.

Abe ensures that no student, athlete, or program goes without apparel or gear. When there is a need, he quietly takes care of it, never seeking recognition or compensation. A few years ago, one of our student body officer's family had a devastating house fire. When Abe heard, his first concern was to replace the officer's school sweater which had burned. It was an emotional gift for the student to receive at a difficult time in his life. At other times, he has provided what tight budgets cannot, whether it's for an individual student whose family can't afford a letterman jacket or championship ring, or an entire team in need of new equipment, or even airfare for a team traveling to an out of state tournament. Most recently he has been working to help Fremont superfan, who suffered an injury with medical bills and to afford a rehab facility and extended critical care.

Abe helped us to acquire new golf bags for our boys golf team back in 2019 with a generous donation right as we hired brand new coach Broc Ballif. Because of this gift, Coach Ballif and his teams have since gone on to win several Region Titles as well as an Academic-All State Championship title. A little support from a dedicated community member can truly go a long way. It helped create a successful foundation for this team. These boys knew that they mattered. They had confidence in who they were and the school they represented and Abe Dalebout helped to give them this start. Instead of worrying about fundraising, our team was able to focus on grades and academic pursuits. We are so grateful to him!

Being a supporter is not without sacrifice. Abe donated his time during COVID to be our designated camera man. He live-streamed every home game that we had for our girls basketball team through the 2020-2021 season. He changed the entire focus of his business and began providing face masks with school logos to every student and staff member in the Weber School District and PPE to local health professionals.

During the course of the pandemic with all the changes from the UHSAA to help with social distancing, schools were asked to label stadium seating and provide new ways for parents to purchase tickets to help keep numbers at a lowered capacity. Abe provided all our signage for our gyms, and stadium. He simply wanted to help. What a burden he lifted from our shoulders as an administrative team as well as for our athletic director. Abe is always looking for opportunities to step in to help his local school. He wanted to help be a part of the solution. Even more so, he wanted to ensure that we had what we needed so that we could ensure that the kids could continue to play. He could see the big picture. He was one of our biggest advocates during the most tumultuous time we had ever faced as educators.

This year Abe again showed up and asked if he could create a beautiful name plate that would go outside of every teacher's classroom, to help students continue to find their classes as our halls become more crowded. What a thoughtful idea. I want this committee to know they have all been placed, and they are beautiful!

More important than all the contributions to Fremont High School and Weber School District, is the example that Abe Dalebout sets for our community. Coleman Knitting Mills is under the direction of an incredible leader. Great companies don't just exist and sustain being able to do great business by happenstance. They thrive when they have a strong leader at the helm. I am certain that Abe Dalebout has been able to impact or influence every school in some way in the state of Utah as they create the uniforms and brand that help each of us to be who we are. Each school is so unique and every stitch sewn by Coleman employees is made with precision and care so that each of our brands, reputations, color schemes, and school spirit radiates from that combination of fabric. They do this knowing that this is what legacies are made of, and every school in Utah is looking to leave and make one. They help us all create something so fragile and so important, our image.

I very proudly recommend Mr. Abe Dalebout to be a recipient of the Partners in Education Award in the Weber School District. Not only for his many contributions to Fremont High School and the Weber School District, but also to schools all over the state of Utah. He has been a tireless and generous community partner and has provided countless hours of dedicated service to students and to the greater community.

Sincerely,
Alicia Mitchell- Principal
Fremont High School