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To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to nominate Karli Plant for the Elementary First Year Teacher Award in Weber School District. Karli is currently a special education teacher at our school working with grades 4-6. We have been fortunate to have her as part of our Bates school family.

Karli not only works on the academic side of helping her special education students improve, but she also helps them with social skills as well. Many times I've observed her in the role of working with a student and asking them questions such as "Share with me how you are feeling?" "Why do you think you are feeling that way?" "What do you think you need for a reset?" This has been amazing to watch especially as she works to help her special education students work towards being advocates for themselves in the classroom and with peers.

Karli has excellent communication with parents and teachers. She reaches out to them frequently. She calls parents when a concern comes up to help with problem solving. She is a great bridge between parent feedback and then adjusting student learning working with teachers to ensure success in the classroom. She follows up with teachers frequently to help ensure academic and social needs are met for her students.

Karli has a great understanding for a first year teacher of special education. Her university learning really prepared her, but has developed her own knowledge and understanding by seeking answers. Karli replaced a well beloved teacher, but her special education team blended together beautifully right from the beginning. They meet together every week in their own PLC to improve our child study process and focus on helping students and teachers.

Karli's classroom engagement is wonderful. As a first year teacher, she is a bundle of energy. She gets excited about what she is teaching. When I dropped in her classroom one day, she was working with her students on some vocabulary. She had connected the vocabulary to reading and everyday examples. I was also impressed that she was stretching her students with some of the vocabulary they were learning. The students were driving their learning by asking questions to deepen their knowledge on the subject matter they were studying. The students love seeing her and want to be in her classroom. She shows them compassion and care as she works to help them reach their individual learning goals.

Karli brings amazing skills to her job that are not typical of a first year teacher special education teacher in my experience. She brings absolute joy to school with her every day. She has an energy she brings with her and jumps in whenever she is needed. You can tell she loves what she does and is on a mission to help students, parents, and teachers. If I could clone her I would!

Sincerely,  
Laura Wright

Principal