

January 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Jamie Nabozny on the highest terms as a speaker/presenter. I have known Jamie for five years and have found him to be an outstanding and dedicated individual.

I facilitated a Hamline University graduate-level course (SEED – Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) for South Washington County Schools (Cottage Grove, MN) until my recent retirement. Jamie presented his personal story and informational material to my classes over a period of three years. The teachers in the classes were honestly “mesmerized” as they listened to his presentation and I received outstanding evaluations of his presentations after each of Jamie’s class visits.

Jamie also gave presentations at our two local high schools (Park High School in Cottage Grove and Woodbury High School in Woodbury MN). As Jamie shared his personal story and talked about bullying, I watched for student reactions and it was amazing that several hundred students were in the audience at each presentation yet there was no talking or fooling around in the audience, just rapt attention as Jamie shared his story. One of our school counselors later told me that the presentation had deeply moved students and she had received many positive comments from them as they shared how they planned to make changes in their lives based on Jamie’s experiences.

I recently attended a showing of Southern Poverty Law Center’s newest documentary film “Bullied: A Student, A School and a Case That Made History.” I was fortunate to attend the premier of this film, which tells Jamie’s story, and heard Morris Dees (co-founder and chief trial counsel for SPLC) acknowledge the important role that Jamie has played in inspiring hope in the young people in our schools today.

I have taught in public schools for over 30 years and I truly feel that this film and Jamie’s message of hope should be heard by students everywhere. I highly recommend Jamie as an outstanding speaker!

Sincerely,

Dianne R. Olson
Retired SEED Facilitator and Adjunct Professor/Hamline University (St. Paul, MN)