



Lisa Lane
Chief Executive Officer
Tolerance in Motion
12 North 12th Street, #480
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February 27, 2014

Dear Lisa,

As the Director of Learning and Accountability for the Orono public schools, I am well aware of the importance of engaging students in the ongoing, critical discussions of diversity and inclusion. In particular, Tolerance in Motion is an ideal companion to our character development program, which is grounded in systemic, school-wide processes and practices. While we are helping to develop young minds to be smarter adults we must also develop a comprehensive set of soft skills to help those same minds to be good, caring and sensitive adults. We look to community partners who are able to help us work well across cultural, racial, religious and gender differences. Our efforts to build strong character come from within and outside the classroom.

In the Orono district we believe that good character and ethical decision-making are critical skills for children to succeed in school, in work and in life. We also recognize that preparing our students for their future means they must be prepared to interact in a culturally diverse society. In order to succeed in preparing students for their future, we must always be identifying a fresh approach to content.

Tolerance in Motion will be an important partner in this work and specifically as we look to help our youth understand the positive impact of a diverse classroom, school and community.

I am eager to participate in this unique project, which will provide us with additional resources to help us further build meaningful, diverse relationships. There is no partnership that we hold in higher regard.

I hope that the Bush Foundation will give every consideration to this important project.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ruhland
Director of Learning and Accountability
Orono Public Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT

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