

# Peoria Agricultural Education

Peoria High School – 11200 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave. - Peoria, AZ 85345-5945

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February 1, 2017

Re: recommendation letter for Dr. Patti Beltram

Brian Fuller  
Advisor

To Whom It May Concern:

James Kaltenbach  
Advisor

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. Patti Beltram for the position of Chief Academic Support Officer within the Peoria Unified School District. I believe Dr. Beltram is uniquely qualified for this position based on her specific experiences, knowledge, work ethic, and who she knows at the local, state, and national levels.

Kelli Rovey  
Advisor

Lyle Wright  
Advisor

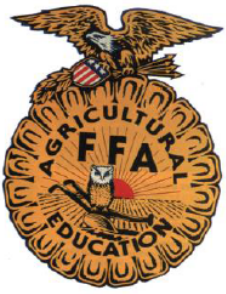
I first met Dr. Beltram in 2002 while I was student teaching and she was teaching business classes and advising a FBLA chapter in the Gilbert District. Since then Patti and I have shared many experiences that lead me to believe that she is ideally suited to this position you are offering. In 2005 Patti was named the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) National Teacher of the year. That same year she came to the Peoria Unified School District (PUSD) to serve in the CTE department as an Instructional Specialist. In 2010 she became the PUSD CTE Director outright and has served in that position ever since. In those 11+ years in PUSD I have continued to be more impressed with Dr. Beltram every week, month, and year.

Dr. Beltram will work most other humans under the table. If you had only cursorily looked at Dr. Beltram's resume you would see that it was extensive. A deeper look would lead you to a feeling of amazement. All of those activities, committees, and awards would be a regular person's whole career, but for Patti it is just a small part of her life/career. All of those things she has done while being an active, engaged mother and wife, active in her church, and an avid participant in charities and other civic activities. Dr. Beltram is a prolific work-horse (in the MOST complimentary way) within her many endeavors.

In her time as the PUSD CTE Director she has worked to establish the PUSD CTE Department as the single largest, most successful, most active, most awarded CTE group in all of Arizona (I am not exaggerating or being hyperbolic; these claims are all verifiable). No other District in the state garners as many awards for programs, teachers, students, and CTSO's. While Dr. Beltram does not win these on her own, her tireless efforts to streamline and improve teacher functions, teacher training, program improvement, funding efficiency, and student training are without equal. These efforts make all those under her more successful.

Dr. Beltram is also very well connected. It has been said many times that, "it is not what you know, but who you know." Patti's place on the Governor's Council, Statewide CTE Boards, Tech Prep Board, and her efforts around the nation put her in a rarefied space in Arizona Education connectivity. I know that these connections will serve her well directing District Curriculum.

***FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.***



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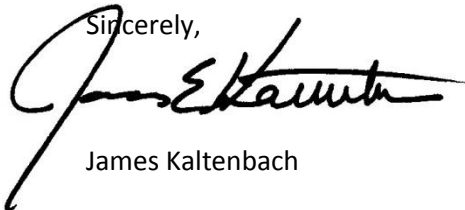
The best testament to Dr. Beltram's efficacy is that PUSD CTE Programs will miss her very much if she were to acquire this new position. I cannot imagine having a CTE Director that could possibly work as hard and get as much done as she has. Even though she will still be in the District my own AgriScience Program will suffer because she won't be able to spend as much time supporting & encouraging us in her new role. While Dr. Beltram's efforts have already benefited most of the 36,000+ PUSD students through her countless initiatives, I know that her expertise, skills, effort, heart-for-students, love of teaching, and undying passion for education will continue.

I should also tell you that while I am an AgriScience teacher in PUSD, I am also a 12 year School Board Member of the Western Maricopa Education Center (WestMEC) JTED. As such, I have a decidedly different vantage point than most teachers. As a Board member I can tell you that Dr. Beltram does and exemplary job being prepared, anticipating concerns and questions, and getting out ahead of issues.

A final agricultural analogy that describes Dr. Beltram so well is "you always put your best puller in the front." Whether you have a team of dogs, oxen, or Clydesdales, you want your best one in the front pulling all the rest. Dr. Beltram is the best, most hardworking, most foresighted administrator I know, and PUSD would do well to have her at the front.

I would be happy to answer any question you had regarding Dr. Beltram. I give her my highest recommendation. You can contact me by any of the methods above, but while I'm teaching class email would be best.

Sincerely,



James Kaltenbach

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