

**GM 574**

**EDT**

**Jeffrey Piontek**  
**HTDC**



Senator Carol Fukunaga  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

April 13, 2009

RE: (GM 574) Appointment to Board of the High Technology Development Corporation

Chair Fukunaga and members of the committee on Economic Development and Technology. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my thoughts and my passion for Science Technology Education and Engineering (STEM) in Hawaii. As I understand from my educational background that there is not enough focus on developing STEM skills in our state. If Hawaii is going to develop a highly qualified workforce then we need to develop diversified opportunities for our keiki.

I have been a member of the Hawaii community for a relatively short time in comparison to many of my colleagues (5 years). I deeply value my participation in such a visionary and supportive community. The opportunities and the ability to connect with my colleagues around the country on issues pertaining to STEM education in many of our initiatives and to collaborate with teachers, students and the community at large on robotics programs has been amazing. I believe that my experience and expertise are in direct alignment with HTDC's vision and mission and will help the organization to grow and become cohesive in our efforts to produce a scientifically and technologically literate workforce and in turn a scientifically and technologically literate society.

On this the fiftieth anniversary of Sputnik the need for a scientifically literate and skilled citizenry has never been greater. The students of today will be tomorrow's decision makers who will face increasingly complex political, social, ethical, and economic issues that will rely heavily on their understanding of science and technology. The jobs that require only simple instruction will become increasingly scarce as they are either out-sourced or automated. Workers will be required to utilize advanced problem solving and reasoning skills.

We should be seen as national leaders on how we can contribute to the preparedness of our students and our workforce but at this point we are not. Your committee and your support for your constituents will help to direct the processes of preparing students for the challenges that lie ahead. Promoting and supporting quality science and technology education requires tremendous vision, energy, and a good dose of stamina. The ability to network and brainstorm ideas, share resources, and collaborate to address the issues that we face pertaining to STEM education, workforce development and reform are the true crux of our community.

We need to continually think out-of-the-box to efficiently, economically and deliver programs and initiatives to support our citizenry and I see HTDC as the platform where ideas can be developed, shared, and transformed into sustainable solutions for our future. As a member of the HTDC organization I will work to seek out partnerships and collaborations with other organizations, which have proven to be a very successful.

As a member of the board of the High Technology Development Corporation I would ask the critical questions to help focus state resources that would best enhance the mission and vision of the organization and play a critical role to allow industry to better integrate into schools and programs into STEM learning.

The STEM education pipeline in Hawaii needs to be developed from the earliest age possible so that our students have the ability to take higher level courses and thus develop critical thinking, scientifically and technologically literate workforce.

As the Head of School of the largest and most innovative public charter school in Hawaii the need for greater bandwidth, a more developed infrastructure and enhanced access have become even more apparent to me and my students. The need for an increased Broadband infrastructure would allow Hawaii to be competitive in the global economy. This is not a negotiable any longer it is a necessity if we are to remain competitive in the global economy and the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

As a member of the board I will significantly focus the vision of the organization on Hawaii's future and our students in the development of a technologically, scientifically and globally competitive workforce.

The quest for information, access and equality in all aspects of government are essential to me as a person and an educator and I do not foresee any conflict of interest being on the board of directors of HTDC and if any did arise I would handle it appropriately.

I express my gratitude for the ability to share my thoughts, the chance to collaborate, create and communicate the vision of STEM in Hawaii's future on behalf of all of the children across this great state that have been influenced by a STEM program, we thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey Piontek  
Head of School  
Hawaii Technology Academy

LATE

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
THEODORE E. LIU  
DIRECTOR  
MARK K. ANDERSON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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**Statement of  
Theodore E. Liu  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**  
April 15, 2009  
1:15 P.M.  
State Capitol, Room 016

in consideration of  
**GM 574**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 574  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE  
HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JEFFREY W. PIONTEK  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2013.**

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology.

I am Theodore E. Liu, Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

It is my distinct pleasure to be here today to testify in support of Mr. Jeffrey W. Piontek's appointment to the Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation, an agency of the State of Hawaii administratively attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

Mr. Piontek has distinguished himself with his knowledge, experience, and leadership in teaching and developing curriculum in science and technology fields, as well as for holding various roles in Hawaii and the U.S. Mainland, collaborating to further the growth of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs and initiatives in educational systems from K through 20.

HTDC's board appointments are based by statutes and recognize board members appointed for their expertise and contributions in the areas of finance, commerce and trade, corporate management, marketing, economics, engineering, telecommunications, and other high technology fields. We look forward to Mr. Pointek's contributions as a member on HTDC Board of Directors representing the public sector with knowledge, interest, and proven expertise in development of science and technology educational curriculum and related educational programs.

Ms. Chair, Ms. Vice-Chair, and members of the committee, I thank you for the opportunity for your time today and your consideration of this request and appointment. I look forward, as does Mr. Pointek, to any questions you may have for us.

APR 15 2009

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LATE



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 12, 2009

Honorable Carol Fukunaga  
Chair, Economic Development and Technology Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania – Room 216  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Fukunaga and Committee Members:

I would like to offer my support of Mr. Jeff Piontek to the board of the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC). I have known, and worked closely with, Mr. Piontek over the past two years in his capacity as the Head of School at Hawaii Technology Academy. During this time, I have been impressed by Mr. Piontek's dedication to developing instructive and dynamic ways to integrate technology into education curriculum. This dedication has translated into a successful career that I believe would benefit the HTDC in the future.

As the State of Hawaii's specialist for science education at the Hawaii Department of Education, Mr. Piontek trained nearly a thousand teachers in different methods for interjecting technology into the classroom; this work ultimately led to the development and adoption of new science standards and curriculum used throughout our school system. He has also developed successful lasting relationships between local businesses and civic groups who have an interest in supporting technology based instruction in schools.

Jeff has been recognized for his excellence in the field of technology and education by being appointed to the Council for Leadership in Education and Technology in 2005. Likewise, Mr. Piontek has successfully secured a number of grants while with the Department of Education, including: \$1 million grant from NASA to pursue robotics programs in Hawaii schools, and a \$500,000 grant from the National Governor's Association/Gates Foundation.

In addition, Mr. Piontek was elected as the President of the Hawaii Science Teachers Association where he has been a leader in developing various classroom applications of science and technology in the school system.

**Representative Blake K. Oshiro, 33<sup>rd</sup> District**

*Aiea • Halawa Heights • Pearlridge • Red Hill • Waimalu*

*State Capitol #439 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

*Phone: (808) 586-6340 • Fax: (808) 586-6341 • E-Mail: repboshiro@capitol.hawaii.gov*

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From my past experiences working with Mr. Piontek, I know him to be a person who is open to working with a wide range of people from varying backgrounds. He is willing to listen and learn from his professional interactions in an efficient and respectful way.

Mr. Piontek will be a valuable addition to the board of the High Technology Development Corporation and I urge the Committee to support his nomination.

Sincerely,



Blake K. Oshiro  
State Representative

**Representative Blake K. Oshiro, 33<sup>rd</sup> District**

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Written Statement of  
**YUKA NAGASHIMA**  
**Executive Director & CEO**  
High Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**  
Wednesday, April 15, 2009  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016  
1:15 P.M.  
In consideration of

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 574**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**  
**HIGH TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,**  
**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JEFFREY W. PIONTEK**  
**FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2013.**

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee.

It is my pleasure to support the appointment of Jeffrey W. Piontek to the Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

Mr. Pointek is a native of New York graduating with a an undergraduate degree in biology and masters of science degree in urban and multicultural education from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Riverdale, New York. Spending the last three years in Hawaii, Mr. Pointek is currently engaged at the University of Hawaii-PhD Program, and his dissertation topic is 'Science Assessment and Teacher Pedagogical Content Knowledge.'

As Head of the Hawaii Technology Academy, a public charter school, and President of the Hawaii Science Teachers Association, Mr. Pointek spends much of his time contributing to the advancement of science and technology, working tirelessly to improve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs in Hawaii's educational system.

Mr. Pointek has successfully cultivated relationships in both the public and private sector garnering corporate funding of more than \$1Million to support science and technology activities and programs in the State.

As this committee is aware, P-20 and STEM educational programs are critical to the successful development of a qualified high tech workforce. HTDC mission is to facilitate the development and growth of the commercial technology industry implementing best practices of tech-based economic development policies. Mr. Pointek's knowledge and experience in STEM programs will assist HTDC in its efforts to create a future workforce that will support the growth of the commercial high tech industry.

The Board and the staff very much welcome his appointment and encourage your favorable vote on his behalf.





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April 10, 2009

Attn: the Honorable Carol Fukunaga  
Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Fukunaga:

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of appointing Jeffrey Piontek to the board of the High Technology Development Corporation. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Piontek as the State Science Specialist at the Department of Education in the statewide expansion of the Hawaii FIRST LEGO® League scholastic robotics program and collaboratively with the annual Honolulu Advertiser Newspaper in Education Program's special STEM edition, a project initiated by isisHawaii in 2006.

Mr. Piontek's eagerness to develop innovative ideas promoting STEM education is evident in his work with the Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair, as the current president of the State of Hawaii Science Teachers Association, scholastic robotics and, most recently, as director of the Hawaii Technology Academy.

I urge you to consider the appointment of this highly qualified, accomplished individual who shows a unique passion and energy towards STEM-related education and for the continued success of Hawaii's children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Please feel free to contact me (phone: (808) 988-1931 or via email at [lfujioka@isishawai.org](mailto:lfujioka@isishawai.org)) if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Lynn Fujioka, President  
isisHawaii



High Technology Development Corporation  
Honolulu, HI

RE: Appointment of Mr. Jeffrey Piontek  
Board of the High Technology Development Corporation

Dear Sir or Madame:

It is with great pleasure to write this letter in support of appointing Mr. Jeffrey Piontek to the board of the High Technology Development Corporation.

Mr. Piontek and I have been working together on building the Hawaii Technology Academy (HTA) during the past year and his passion and demeanor is consistent toward all people he works with. He has proven to be exceptional in several respects.

First, Mr. Piontek is exceptionally intelligent. With his insight and experience in education, his strategies are always thoughtful and penetrating. As the Head of School for HTA, Mr. Piontek throws himself into school projects wholeheartedly; he is always looking for ways to provide the students with the most advanced technology in order for them to have the skills to be competitive in the global economy and the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Secondly, his high degree of enthusiasm is unmatched. He has well defined career goals that mesh with school projects and long term growth strategies, at the same time always thinking what is best for the school and students.

Mr. Piontek has just completed his PhD coursework and will be defending his thesis which focuses on Science and Technology Development and a literate workforce for the global economy. His book (Blog's Wiki's and Podcast's Oh My! Electronic Media in the Classroom) was recently published around 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy skills and has been well received by the community at large.

Third, Mr. Piontek is not only good humored and friendly, but also is good at gauging other people's level of knowledge and attitudes, both students and staff. His eagerness to develop innovative applications; work on robotics; STEM education; Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair; and as the president of the State of Hawaii Science Teachers Association (2009-2011) where he has developed an infrastructure of preparation for teachers, will all prepare our children for the workforce or higher education.

In short, I give Mr. Piontek my highest recommendation, and very much hope that the committee judges his application favorably. His appointment would provide the High Technology Development Corporation to work with someone that is on the cutting edge of technology and workforce preparation for the global economy.

Joseph A. Evans  
Operations Manager

Mark Loughridge  
Director, Creativity Academies Outreach  
218 Paiko Drive  
Honolulu , Hawaii 96821

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of appointing Jeffrey Piontek to the board of the High technology Development Corporation. I have worked with Mr. Piontek as the State Specialist for Science Education at the Hawaii Department of Education, as well as the Head of School for the Hawaii technology Academy. Mr. Piontek has continually worked to present new opportunities to students in preparing them for their future. He has worked in conjunction with state agencies, non-profits and anyone interested in preparing our youth for the global workforce.

Mr. Piontek is a consistent performer in his passion, expertise and demeanor toward all people he has worked with. He is very strong in his fundamentals, and is a keen observer, and therefore is quick in assimilating concepts. The word "no" rarely comes out of his mouth when working to provide an opportunity for someone to better themselves or their community. His eagerness to develop innovative applications, work on robotics, STEM education, Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair and as the president of the State of Hawaii Science Teachers Association (2009-2011) where he has developed an infrastructure of preparation for teachers that will prepare our children for the workforce or higher education.

Mr. Piontek has just completed his PhD coursework and will be defending his thesis which focuses on Science and Technology Development and a literate workforce for the global economy. His book (Blog's Wiki's and Podcast's Oh My! Electronic Media in the Classroom) was recently published around 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy skills and has been well received by the community at large.

Jeff Piontek arrived in Hawaii four and a half years ago. He was formerly with the New York City Department of Education. In Hawaii, Jeff works as the state science specialist, but that title does not do him justice. He works tirelessly across all content areas and with all interested parties to create excellent learning opportunities for every child in the state. Jeff is a former science teacher, director of science curriculum and instruction, and director of instructional and informational technology for the City of New York. He is an author and enigmatic speaker. He is also someone who has his feet planted firmly on the ground: he not only envisions big plans, he makes them happen. For example, he is one of the main forces behind Hawaii's success in going from 4 student teams competing in robotics to over 241 for next year. We are lucky to have him in Hawaii.

Jeff innovates continually in crafting new, creative ways for the students of Hawaii to delve into STEM. The fact that Jeff has taken science education, robotics and STEM to a huge new level in the state is reason enough to nominate him. In addition to this, he has a number of new initiatives that will soon hit their stride, including pioneering work involving students in converting their schools to renewable energy.

Jeff's commitment to the public schools and the partnerships he has helped form here in Hawaii are opening up new opportunities in STEM careers for students, opportunities not realized previously. Jeff works passionately with all manner of partners, including the University of Hawaii, the Department for Business Economic Development and Tourism, local technology companies, and many community-based organizations. He has an astounding range of expertise in science and technology. He looks at any issue that can enhance student opportunity or achievement and he takes the initiative to figure out how to complete it. With his enthusiasm, original thinking and congenial spirit, Jeff is able to bring together all manner of people and partnerships to benefit our children.

The impact of Jeff's work is widespread and far-reaching for the state of Hawaii. With his stewardship, students in much larger numbers than ever before are creating original STEM projects in exciting new ways: from the radical expansion of the number of student teams competing in robotics, to the growing number of students creating original software, to the growing number of students investigating new energy solutions within the school community.

Jeff's innovations are highly productive— in fact, a keystone for our state's future— because his work triggers a cascade of new, creative thinking in STEM among a broad range of our children. He has a direct impact on the number of children who will be guiding our society in the future and making decisions for years to come. He inspires all generations— from students at all grade levels to the professionals he continually ropes in to help out in the schools.

Jeff pilots programs that demonstrate for others how innovation can occur and be promoted in any school. Once the project is pioneered in a given school, he then goes on to help promote the transfer of knowledge to create success in new locations across the state. His work is utilized by state DOE leadership, principals, teachers, students, and members of the community. Indeed, I am sure that the next wave of innovations he is fostering will reverberate far beyond Hawaii.

Jeff is tackling a range of important issues, from fostering innovation in individual students and teachers, to transforming the school system to become more innovative as a whole (a giant challenge!). He has transformed his division and many others he works with to be more open, accessible and actively engaged in working with all stakeholders and areas. He focuses on the neighbor islands with many of his programs, and he works to assure equitable access for all students. Ultimately, he is working hard to help develop the right educational infrastructure to help our society and economy diversify and generate more opportunity for all.

Hawaii is at a crossroads. As reported recently in the media, the visitor industry is on a gradual decline with no reversal in sight. Fuel costs are escalating and inflation is rising here faster than most of the US. By and large, visitor industry jobs are not high-paying. As our traditional industries decline and costs rise, Jeff is working hard to give our students the right skills to earn a better wage and create new opportunities by thinking as innovators in science, technology, engineering and math.

Unfortunately, a disheartening number of students in Hawaii do not graduate from high school, do not go to college, and many of those who do go to college require serious remediation. Meanwhile, studies show that the gap in earning power between college graduates and those who do not attend college is widening substantially. Students without a solid-grounding in 21stcentury skills are ill-prepared for the ways in which the global economy is quickly transforming. This is our status quo. Jeff is working hard to change this by engaging students in creative, exciting STEM learning where students can exercise their creativity and showcase their originality.

The world is rapidly moving toward a knowledge-based economy with extreme competition. In many ways, US education is failing to keep up with rising global standards, and the US is losing dominance in industry after industry. Earning power is declining for labor with low skills as more and more industries outsource to less expensive countries. The skills needed to survive and thrive in our flat, hyper competitive world are radically different and much more complex than just a few generations ago. Jeff has scaled practical solutions that help many more of our students here in Hawaii to compete more effectively in the future. I feel that with his continued leadership we will actually become a model for how other states can improve the way they foster innovation in learning.

As technology become ubiquitous, every industry and sphere of life is transforming. The future is hardly predictable, companies of all sizes are less stable and more vulnerable to competition than ever before, and everyone needs to learn to be more self-reliant and better equipped to shape their careers. Through his partnerships and leadership, Jeff successfully inspires many, many students to take charge of their futures and help lead in a rapidly changing world.

With all these accolades to his credit, he is, beyond doubt, an outstanding candidate for this position and I recommend his consideration and approval by the committee. It would provide the High Technology Development Corporation the opportunity to work with someone who is on the cutting edge of technology and workforce preparation for the global economy.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Mark Loughridge  
Director  
Creativity Academies  
(808) 782-9036

To: The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair,  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair,  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Date: Tuesday April 15, 2009  
Time: 1:15 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 016  
State Capitol

From: Jeff Bloom

**Nomination of Jeffrey Piontek (GM 574)**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Mr. Jeffrey Piontek. My name is Jeff Bloom and I have been very active locally in education and workforce development issues for over 20 years including owning a technology company in Hawaii for many of those years. During that time I have been a member of the Workforce Development Council (6 years), Board Member of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (6 years) and Enterprise Honolulu (4 years).

Over the last three years I have had the pleasure to work closely with Mr Piontek on a number of initiatives concerning both education and workforce development in his role as State Science Specialist for the Hawaii Department of Education. I first met Mr Piontek in 2006 while organizing a statewide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education Conference.

Since then I have had the opportunity to work with Mr Piontek on various projects including the steering committee for the STEM Leadership Conference, the National Governors Association STEM Center Grant Award for Hawaii, various robotics programs including FIRST, FIRST Lego League, and VEX, and most recently the Hawaii Science Teachers Association conference.

As a business owner for over 20 years I understand the difficult task of leadership and working with various stakeholders to transform ideas into tangible results for the betterment of the community. Mr Piontek has been extremely successful in producing results during his 20 plus years in service in the New York City and Hawaii Departments of Education and I strongly support his nomination to the Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation.

I respectfully ask for your confirmation of Mr. Jeffrey Piontek to the Board of Directors of the High Technology Development Corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my comments.

*Jeff Bloom*

Jeff Bloom

# November Learning

LATE

April 15, 2009

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

To Whom it May Concern:

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of appointing Jeffrey Piontek to the board of the High Technology Development Corporation. I have worked with Mr. Piontek

- 1) As the State Specialist for Science Education at the Hawaii Department of Education. Mr. Piontek has continually worked to present new opportunities to students in preparing them for their future. He has worked in conjunction with state agencies, non-profits and anyone interested in preparing our youth for the global workforce.
- 2) As the Director of Instructional Technology in NYC where Jeff was instrumental in developing a free wireless network for students that were socioeconomically disadvantaged in conjunction with the Bronx Borough president and Cablevision. As well as many other projects to bridge the Digital Divide.
- 3) As the Head of School for the Hawaii Technology Academy where his current programs are preparing students for the workforce by training them on the use of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills needed to be competitive in the global economy.

Mr. Piontek is a consistent performer in his passion, expertise and demeanor toward all people he has worked with. He is very strong in his fundamentals, and is a keen observer, and therefore is quick in assimilating concepts. The word "no" rarely comes out of his mouth when working to provide an opportunity for someone to better themselves or their community. His eagerness to develop innovative applications, work on robotics, STEM education, Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair and as the president of the State of Hawaii Science Teachers Association (2009-2011) where he has developed an infrastructure of preparation for teachers that will prepare our children for the workforce or higher education.

Mr. Piontek has just completed his PhD coursework and will be defending his thesis which focuses on Science and Technology Development and a literate workforce for the global economy. His book (Blog's Wiki's and Podcast's Oh My! Electronic Media in the Classroom) was recently published around 21<sup>st</sup> century literacy skills and has been well received by the community at large.

With all these accolades to his credit, he is, beyond doubt, an outstanding candidate for this position and I recommend his consideration and approval by the committee. It would provide the High Technology Development Corporation to work with someone that is on the cutting edge of technology and workforce preparation for the global economy.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Alan November  
Senior Partner

OFFICE: 781.631.4333  
FAX: 781.631.1808

12 Hathaway Road  
Marblehead, MA 01945

info@novemberlearning.com  
www.novemberlearning.com

LATE

April 14, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am deeply honored and humbled to have been asked to recommend Jeff Piontek to the board of the High Technology Development Corporation. I couldn't imagine a more perfect candidate for the position.

As a way of introduction, my name is Tom Honohan and I am a Technology Integrator Teacher at New Canaan High School located in New Canaan, CT. Prior to my current position, I served as a Project Manager for a \$9M NCLB/E2T2 Grant in Region 10 NYC Department of Education. It was during my seven years with the NYCDOE that I met and became a huge fan of Jeff.

I consider myself Jeff's number one state-side fan! I had the distinct pleasure of working with Jeff as he played a critical leadership role with the Beaumont Foundation of America partners as they implemented a technology grant to build and enhance access to technology in 27 NYC schools. Even more impressive is how Jeff was able to leverage the technology grants to transform teaching and learning. Indeed, Jeff's leadership, passion and project outcomes greatly influenced how administrators, teachers, and most importantly students, successfully integrated technology into their learning experience.

Jeff Piontek goes the extra mile and then some. He possesses an intelligence, intensity and focus about his work unlike any individual I know. He exemplifies the kind of leadership, vision and commitment that would be a significant asset to the board of the High Technology Development Corporation. He is relentless and tireless in his pursuit of accomplishing his vision. A vision that ensures students' are not just participants in our global economy, but also the creators and innovators of the future.

Jeff always sees the big picture, yet important details are never forgotten. He knows leadership means not being in charge, but inspiring and enabling colleagues and constituents to realize their potential. Foremost, Jeff is resourceful. With the many successful projects he has designed and implemented, he has always made himself available to anyone who was seeking guidance and advice. Jeff goes the extra mile to gather and cultivate collective wisdom to ensure that good ideas grow into exceptional achievements.

After he moved to become the State Specialist for Science Education at the Hawaii Department of Education, not once did I lose contact with Jeff. In fact, our relationship only strengthened and our resolve to share lessons learned and celebrate successes never wavered. Throughout my entire career in education, Jeff has had a tremendous impact on my professional growth. Quite frankly, he continues to be extraordinary, providing much needed support and guidance as I implement my own projects and programs to prepare our youth to be competitive in a global market.

I recommend Jeff to you with the highest regard.

Sincerely,

Tom Honohan  
Technology Integration Teacher, Math/Science/Technology Departments  
New Canaan High School  
New Canaan, CT