



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Box C-115

Alpine, TX 79832-0001

March 11, 2016

To the Council of the Great City Schools:

I am pleased to write this letter of reference on behalf of Vantage Learning and the company's proposal to build a Professional Development Platform for teachers. My very positive working relationship with Vantage Learning dates back to 1998.

As the former Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Red Clay Consolidated School District in Wilmington, Delaware, I, along with a committee of teachers, selected Vantage Learning to provide customized online assessment programs and the online writing program MYAccess! for students in grades 5-10 in our district. I found that the consultants were extremely knowledgeable, the company was very flexible in meeting our specific district needs, and our students' state assessment scores soared as a result of the benchmark testing in math and reading and writing, supported by Vantage online technology systems.

In 2012, I moved to Texas to join the Education Faculty at Sul Ross State University and become the Assistant Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness. Since then, I have continued to work with Vantage Learning, and I incorporated MYAccess! as part of the curriculum for students in our teacher education program in English Language Arts methods courses. I included MYAccess!, because I wanted the future teachers to explore the strong professional development support component offered by Vantage, and the powerful design of the writing experience for students. In 2014, I invited Vantage Learning consultants to provide a professional development summer writing institute for teachers in the region served by Sul Ross State University. The response from the teachers who participated was extremely enthusiastic. Most recently, I was invited by Vantage Learning to preview their online professional delivery system, and I was very impressed by its many features.

In conclusion, I have had a long working relationship with Vantage Learning, and I have found that the company continues to evolve and develop to bring the best of technology into the classroom for the benefit of both students and teachers. Based upon these experiences, I highly recommend Vantage Learning to you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Ovarnstrom, Ed.D.

Assistant Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness