

Demarest Public School District

August 9, 2005

Deneen Frazier Bowen
Act With
3711 Werner Avenue
Austin, Texas 78722

Dear Deneen,

I just returned from the 2005 New Jersey Elite Technology Leadership Institute Conference and before I even begin to catch up on the e-mail, calls and paperwork, I wanted to let you know how moved I was by your captivating keynote presentation and follow up session, "Discovering and Engaging The Digital Mindset." As an educator with thirty one years of experience including seven years as a teacher, eighteen years as a principal, and the past six years as superintendent, I found your "voices" to be one of the most exciting and engaging presentations to help us digital immigrants better understand what works best for our digital native students.

As I listened to the colorful characters of Eddy, Maria and Joanna express authentic feelings and beliefs of how today's digital students naturally use technology to gather, understand and share information; I could not escape how they challenged me to examine my own awareness of how we are (or not) meeting their needs and learning styles.

I have attended numerous conferences, watched informative slide shows and have even prepared PowerPoint presentations related to similar topics but have not been as moved as I was with your powerful entertaining performance. Though a competent user of technology who takes pride in modeling and keeping up with the latest gadgets, your insightful work challenges me to better understand how this generation of digital natives manages and applies information. As we struggle to keep pace with the purchase, upkeep, and use of the latest technology in our schools, you helped me better understand the disconnect we have with students who are literally wired differently and live in "another world" for the greater part of their day outside of school.

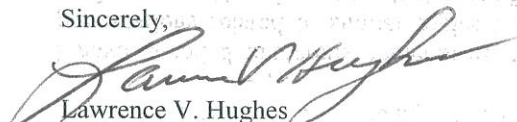
You should take great pride knowing your work is an outstanding resource to help illuminate these issues and concerns. I look forward to sharing your presentation with our learning community and will continue to highly recommend your insightful work to my colleagues in New Jersey. Please feel free to invite others seeking information about your presentation to contact me directly at 201-768-6060 ext 437, or by e-mail at hughes_L@nvnet.org.

Thanks too for modeling the Classroom Performance System (CPS). I was not familiar with this approach which allows immediate participation by the entire audience while also providing instant data analysis of responses. As with instant messaging and blogs, this approach is compatible for our digital natives. It provides active engagement, immediate feedback and expanded opportunities to express ideas. I am confident our students and staff would enjoy using this innovative approach.

Thank you for expanding my awareness of **The Digital Mindset** and the importance of our obligation as educators to recognize and respond to the exponential explosion of how students born after 1990 (and others born earlier) acquire and apply knowledge.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,



Lawrence V. Hughes
Superintendent

Office of the Superintendent

568 Piermont Road Demarest, N.J. 07627 (201) 768-6060 Fax (201) 767-9122