



**Terri Sorensen- Executive Director**  
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11/3/21

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Irene Alder's Employee of the Month award. I have had the opportunity to work closely with her for the past 28 years. Her work ethic, dedication, and knowledge have greatly benefited Oneida School District and our students. Her influence on students, peers, and our community is widespread and profound.

Irene started her education career as a mathematics teacher at Malad High School. Her teaching skills and classroom management have benefited many students past and present. Irene is always willing to take the time to meet with students and support them in their learning process. I have always been impressed with the hands-on activities she created to teach students about math in the world around them. You would see her classes in the high school parking lot determining parking space footage or hiking to Thomas Market to learn about discounts and sales tax. Irene has a passion for mathematics that allows her to teach and motivate students in a subject that is not everyone's favorite.

Eventually, Irene took on the responsibility of becoming the high school counselor. In this position, she supported many students through difficult times, encouraged students to earn college scholarships, and was a strong student advocate. I hesitate to list all of the roles Irene served in because there are too many to count. She was a coach for sports, cheer, and drill teams and also advised for many other groups and clubs. Irene spent many hours after school working with students and cheering them on through their high school experience. After retiring, Irene continued to work in our district and support our students. She taught mathematics at Oneida Alternative High School for many years. Her knowledge of mathematics, ability to engage with students, and skill in classroom management made her an excellent teacher for this setting.

Irene currently works with Idaho Home Learning Academy as an online mathematics instructor for IHLA High School. As always, Irene was not deterred from learning new skills required to transfer her teaching skills to an online environment. Once again she excels at building relationships with students, setting high expectations, and working tirelessly to support students. She has provided math placement testing for IHLA high school students as well as coordinated 504 and IEP test accommodations for spring ISAT assessments. She spends hours above and beyond what is expected of her to provide extra support to her students and to get to know them personally. She serves as a model to other teachers with her online teaching philosophy and her dedication to her students.

Irene is genuinely a life-long learner and advocate for students. Our district and students have and continue to benefit from Irene's passion for education. She is truly deserving of this honor.

Sincerely,

Terri Sorensen

Rachel Jensen