

February 15, 2009

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Dr. Vicki Denmark to have a second term as South Region Trustee for the National Middle School Association Board of Directors.

I have never known an individual more professional and knowledgeable, particularly in the area of middle level education, than Dr. Denmark. She came to Fulton County, where I worked, and opened a very large middle school that immediately distinguished itself by its high expectations of both adults and students and by its strict adherence to the characteristics of middle schools as delineated in *This We Believe*. Her absolute professionalism and high standards embody the meaning of courageous, collaborative leadership, and under her leadership the school was named a Georgia School to Watch in its third year of existence.

Dr. Denmark has now moved to the central office of the system where she serves as an assistant superintendent for support services. Since her move she has encouraged all of these middle schools to more fully implement the characteristics of successful middle schools, and two of the schools this year were re-designated as Georgia Schools to Watch, one for a second time. Again, her professionalism, commitment, and enthusiasm are models for others.

She served with me as co-chair of the local committee for the 30th annual NMSA conference held in Atlanta in 2003. Her energy and commitment to this conference were key ingredients in its success.

She has served as President Elect, President, and Special Programs Coordinator for the Georgia Middle School Association, all with distinction, and is currently a member of the Georgia Lighthouse Schools to Watch Board of Directors. She has an unwavering commitment to middle level education.

Dr. Denmark is tireless in her pursuit of excellence in all that she does, and she would again bring these same characteristics to her work as a trustee for NMSA. The association would profit from her continued involvement on the Board and in the work they do.

I recommend her without reservation to be slated for South Region Trustee.

Sincerely,

Linda Hopping
NMSA School Improvement Toolkit Consultant