



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY

February 21, 2008

Ms. Dianne Elizabeth Osis
Publisher and President
Springfield Business Journal
313 Park Central West
Springfield, MO 65806

Dear Dianne:

I am pleased that Dr. Jerrod Wheeler has been nominated for a "40 under 40" award from the Springfield Business Journal. Dr. Wheeler would make an excellent representative for this year's class. He is truly an outstanding young leader in the education field, serving as principal of George Espy Elementary School in Nixa, Missouri.

Dr. Wheeler has already demonstrated great leadership in the district with teachers, parents, and most of all, the young students. I am fortunate my son attends Espy Elementary, and I know my son is provided an excellent education due to the leadership and expected levels of excellence directed by Dr. Wheeler and his staff.

Under Dr. Wheeler's leadership, Espy Elementary has become an educational leader in technology, performance (ranked number 1 in Missouri Assessment Program test scores, and Nixa Schools Accredited with Distinction award), and model programs.

Many excellent programs are created and implemented under Dr. Wheeler's leadership and perseverance for excellence. These programs include a unique and highly successful character education program, innovative technology in every classroom, a remodeled and high-tech computer lab, and an envious media center. This young and energetic principal is serving the Nixa School District very well.

Dr. Jerrod Wheeler demonstrates a drive and compassion in providing a safe and quality education for each student. He strives for excellence which is apparent throughout the school and community.

We are all very fortunate that we have leaders in elementary education like Dr. Jerrod Wheeler. I encourage you to include him in your 2008 "40 under 40" class.

Best wishes,

Brent Dunn
Vice President

VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

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