



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Edward M. Brand, Ed.D.
Superintendent

July 6, 2011

California Academy of Family Physicians
1520 Pacific Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94109

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my pleasure to support Dr. Charles Camarata's nomination for your Physician of the Year Award. I have had the privilege of knowing about and meeting Dr. Camarata over the last five decades. During that time Dr. Camarata has provided invaluable service and resources to the Sweetwater Union High School District, where I have served as Superintendent since 1995.

Just this past year Dr. Camarata provided over a 1,000 physicals for student athletes in the South County. Through those examinations, four students were found to have irregular heartbeats, and one was probably life threatening. The bottom line is that Dr. Camarata and his team have saved lives and improved the quality of life for children in South County.

The Sweetwater Union High School District is the nation's largest secondary school district for public education. With over 32 campuses, 42,000 seven through twelve graders and an additional 24,000 adult education learners, Dr. Camarata is synonymous with saving lives and promoting health in our region. I would consider him one of the five most influential citizens in a region with over 500,000 citizens.

Dr. Camarata is also spear heading an Athletic Training Program for students in the district. In 2005 the Sweetwater Union High School District discontinued its relationship with local ambulance services; the bottom line was just too costly to have ambulances on duty at student activities such as football games. Rather than being discouraged, Dr. Camarata quickly assembled a group of physicians and trainers to cover the entire district. This has resulted in thousands of dollars in savings for our schools that can be re-directed into the classroom. Complementing his desire to expand the medical services, he also developed a training program for students, allowing those interested in the medical field to gain additional training. Lastly, through Dr. Camarata's work we have an internship program with local physicians. Many of our students have decided that a medical profession is something they want to pursue as a result of this dedicated man.

On a personal note, Dr. Camarata possesses a love for life, a loyalty second to none and an enthusiasm for young people that is both rare and greatly appreciated. If I had to pick one person to represent our district, our schools and our region, Dr. Camarata will be our man.

I will be happy to discuss in greater detail Dr. Camarata's outstanding qualifications. Please feel free to contact me at 619-691-5555 or via e-mail at edward.brand@sweetwaterschools.org.

Sincerely,

Edward M. Brand, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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The Sweetwater Union High School District will fulfill the promise of 100% student success.

Sweetwater Union High School District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on gender, sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sexual