

Tim & Lori VanDyke  
2162 Ridge Rd.  
Louisville, IL 62858  
June 26, 2017

Reed-Custer CUSD 255 Board of Education  
255 Comet Drive  
Braidwood, IL 60408

Dear Board of Education:

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize a member of your faculty and his students for a recent accomplishment. Students in Mark Smith's Production class built kitchen cabinets for our new home during the 2016-2017 academic year.

There are two main reasons that we chose Reed-Custer to construct our cabinets for us. First, I've known Mark Smith for nearly twenty years. I met him when I was the Chair of Technology at Lake Land College and he was teaching Industrial Technology at Shiloh High School. I truly was amazed at the technology he was using in his lab and was also very impressed with the quality of the students' finished projects. After meeting Mark the first time I told my wife "if we build another home, Mark Smith's students will build our cabinets". We certainly hope that everyone at Reed-Custer appreciates Mark for his enthusiasm and effort to provide hands-on learning experiences using cutting edge technology.

Secondly, we chose Reed-Custer students to build our cabinets because we whole heartedly support hands-on learning activities for students at all academic levels. Being a community college technology educator for twenty-three years I understand the value of teaching skills to students that will provide them with satisfying life long careers. Many secondary education students don't have opportunities to develop skills like you offer at Reed-Custer. Sadly, this has prompted a critical shortage of skilled employees for our workforce today. Reed-Custer is to be commended for continuing a high quality technology education program that includes intriguing hands-on learning experiences that graduates will use continually throughout their career.

Thank you for allowing your students to complete our cabinet project and thank you also for supporting Mark Smith in his efforts to provide students with incredible learning opportunities.

Sincerely,

Tim & Lori VanDyke