

November 3, 2021

Dear Lake Wales Superintendent Search Committee,

I aspire to be an innovative and visionary leader in the field of education, and I am applying to be the next Superintendent of The Lake Wales Charter School District.

I look forward to leading the educational environment in a manner that engages all stakeholders and ignites learning in an authentic and meaningful setting.

I am currently the Associate Chief of Academics for Denver Public Schools with supervisory responsibility for curriculum, teacher and leader learning, research and assessment, multilingual language education, career and college success, and a district run technical college.

I have recently purchased a home in Davenport, FL and look forward to being a contributing member of the Central Florida community and helping improve the educational outcomes for the students and families of Central Florida.

I have broad experience in K-20 education in a variety of environments, allowing me to prepare for district, state, and national leadership. This wide lens has provided opportunities for me to understand and honor the perspectives of multiple stakeholders. Using this experience, I will be able to effectively sustain an educational environment that will benefit students, teachers, staff, families, and the district at large.

As an educator, I strive to meet the unique needs of students, staff, families, and the community. As a leader, I provide and support equitable education for all students, and I view myself as a lifelong learner. I have collaborated with and supported teachers and administrators in creating educational experiences that address the unique needs of all learners while affording rigorous opportunities to attain mastery of state standards. In alignment with district, state, and federal laws and guidance, I strive to inspire multiple stakeholders to create and participate in a learning environment that empowers students and staff to reach their fullest potential.

"Leadership should be born out of the understanding of the needs of those who would be affected by it."  
Marian Anderson

In addition to providing and equitable education for each student, I have a passion for student engagement that ignites learning I believe working through the passions and the assets students bring to the table breathes life into learning. Lake Wales needs engaging, creative, and visionary leaders who truly make a difference in the lives of students, staff, parents, and the community. The education system needs leaders who will unite our community and focus on creating an environment in which belonging, equity, and excellence is central.

I would truly appreciate the opportunity to interview with you.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bernard McCune

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. McCune', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

# Bernard McCune

16473 E. Powers Ave.

Centennial, CO 80015

(303) 514-1238

Email [bernard.mccune@gmail.com](mailto:bernard.mccune@gmail.com)

## QUALIFICATION SUMMARY

Educational leader with extensive experience in education administration, operations management, fund development, governmental relations, staff recruitment, and training. Expertise in public and private sector project development, financial management and budgeting. Successful experience in the development of systems to increase academic achievement and organizational efficiencies.

## EXPERIENCE

### Denver Public Schools

2019 to the present

#### Associate Chief of Academics

Responsible for the strategy and oversight of the Academics Division of a 90,000 student school district which includes the departments of Curriculum, Career and College Success, Multilingual Education, Assessment Research and Data, and Teach Leader Development.

#### Senior Executive Director of Career and College Success

Responsible for the development and execution of an ECE to and through college strategy inclusive of counseling, career technical education, Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, and AVID. Oversight of Emily Griffith Technical College, a 9,000 student technical college serving the Denver Metro area.

### RootED

2017 - 2019

#### Chief Portfolio and Talent Officer

Responsible for the development of an educational investment strategy to improve educational outcomes in Denver's public education sector including the recommendation, review and distribution of grants to districts, CMO's, and educational programs.

### Oakland Unified School District

2014 – 2017

#### Deputy Chief

Responsible for oversight of the district schools and principal supervisors. Leadership responsibilities also include supervision of all college and readiness systems and initiatives including the one hundred and twenty million dollar College for All Bond Measure, the thirty million dollar Oakland Promise Initiative, and the five million dollar investment in STEM by the Intel Corporation. Outcome improvements include a



four hundred-percentage point increase in dual enrollment and a thousand-percentage point increase in the number of students taking computer science courses in the district. Additional management responsibilities also include oversight for Adult Education, Athletics, and ROTC.

## **Denver Public Schools**

**2012 - 2014**

### Executive Director

Responsible for strategic direction and management of the Office of College and Career Readiness which integrates P-20 programs that provide direct and indirect support to schools to prepare students for success in college and careers including AVID, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Concurrent Enrollment, Career Technical Education, GEAR UP, ASCENT Program, and Counseling supports, including the Colorado Counseling Corps Grant. Provided development leadership in the successful applications of the Career Connect application to the U.S. Department of Labor and the Early College i3 Grant to the U.S. Department of Education.

## **Chicago Public Schools September 2003 - February 2012**

### *Department of College and Career Preparation*

#### Deputy Director

Responsible for strategic direction and management of Department of College and Career Preparation which integrates P-16 programs that provide direct and indirect support to schools to prepare students for success in college and careers including AVID, Career Technical Education, GEAR UP, Freshman Connections, Counseling supports, College and Career Coaches, Summer Quest, After School Matters, and Choices Planner and Explorer.

#### CPS GEAR UP Director

Responsible for the writing, implementation, and coordination of three GEAR UP grants with over two hundred and thirty million dollar federal funding between Chicago Public Schools and seven university partners focused on increasing the postsecondary enrollment rate for Chicago Public School students in 148 schools.

#### Post-Secondary Specialist

Responsible for the planning and implementation of postsecondary strategies and structures to increase college enrollment and retention in conjunction with the Area Instructional Officer and principals in 23 high schools.

## **Trinity Higher Education Corporation**

**2002 - 2003**

### Director, Wright-Purnell College Placement Center/ETS

Primary responsibility for oversight and management of a multi million dollar college placement program serving over three thousand students including a federally funded TRIO Program. Responsible for the development of city, state, and national partnerships to increase college access and success.

## **Near North Development Corporation (NNDC), Chicago, IL**

**1997 – 2002**

### Operations Director

Primary responsibility for community wide collaborative social service programs for a highly visible and successful community based organization.

Prepare periodic and annual program reports and present results to public and private philanthropy, community planning committee and interagency partnership.

Member of The Coalition for Children, Youth and Families, a thirty million dollar citywide initiative to improve social service access and outcomes. Created collaboration between residents, businesses, neighborhood groups, and local social service agencies to develop, coordinate, and deliver educational, social and recreational programs and services that increase the personal development of children, youth and families.

Developed controls and standard operating procedures for partnership. Set client and program service standards, monitor implementation to insure increased program operation efficiency and productivity.

### ***EDUCATION***

National-Louis University Chicago, IL Doctoral Candidate, 2022

Concordia University River Forest, IL M.A, Educational Leadership, 2008 Knox

College Galesburg, IL B.A., Economics, 1988

### ***CIVIC EXPERIENCE***

**Oakland Promise Executive Board**, Member, Cradle to Career Initiative to triple the number of college graduates in Oakland in the next ten years.

**Oakland Workforce Development Board**, Member, appointed by mayor to help design strategies to improve workforce outcome and programs and approve workforce grants and expenditures.

**Denver Workforce Development Board**, Member, appointed by mayor to help design strategies to improve workforce outcome and programs and approve workforce grants and expenditures.

**Gates Millennium Scholarship**, Reader, One of forty national selected readers of the Bill and Melinda Gates Scholarships, which awarded one billion dollars to its scholars.

**UNCF STEM Scholarship**, Reader, One of fifty national selected readers of the UNCF STEM Scholarship, selects one hundred of the top minority STEM scholars each year.

**The College Board SAT Committee**, Member, One of twenty secondary and higher education leaders selected to provide thought partnership on SAT administration, compliance and impact on students and both secondary and post-secondary institutions.

**Illinois College Access Network**, Board Member, The Illinois College Access Network provides professional development and programmatic opportunities for universities and community based organizations as part of the National College Access Network.



November 8, 2021

Lake Wales Charter School District

To whom this may concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Bernard McCune to become Lake Wales Charter School District Superintendent. I have known Mr. McCune for over 40 years when we both were associated with a youth program in the Cabrini Green Housing Development in Chicago. We have worked together in youth development organizations, for Chicago Public Schools and with non-profit college access initiatives over the past four decades.

More specifically, Bernard served with me at Chicago Public Schools rising to assistant director of the Department of College Preparation which I had the opportunity to serve as director between 2003-'09. During our tenure together I initially hired him to oversee the implementation of dozens of college access programs including GEAR UP in 25 of CPS' 110 high schools. Our work created the first FAFSA arrangement with a state agency to confirm by student name whether a Pell Grant application had been completed. This work also increased college enrollment from 43% to 69% while increasing according to the University of Chicago's Chicago Consortium on School Research, a BA completion rate of 20% for the entering Freshman 9th grade classes. This percentage nearly matches the national average for all entering high school freshmen.

Bernard is a superb listener and problem solver. He has wonderful insight into challenges at the community, school and school district levels. He is highly relational in his approach to leading others, combining his natural relational tendencies with clear expectations and support. He is truly a servant leader willing to stand alongside staff in meeting the objectives of a project, a department, a contract, as well as the larger vision of a school district. He believes in building leadership teams and holding people accountable for stellar implementation and accompanying outcomes. Though I don't know the district level leadership responsibilities in Oakland and Denver I have every expectation that what made him effective in Chicago carried over to those school districts.

He is a person of the highest integrity. Over the years we have participated together in faith based activities and for the past ten years in a weekly prayer group. His character is of the highest level.

It would be hard for me to recommend someone more highly and strongly urge you to give him the highest consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have and can be reached at 202 277-0877.

Sincerely,

Greg Darnieder, former senior advisor to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

Partner with the National Postsecondary Strategy Institute (NPSI)

**Austin**

8509 FM 969 | Building 513  
Austin, TX 78724 | (512) 501-3640

November 10, 2021

**Dallas-Fort Worth**

3200 South Lancaster | Suite 230-A  
Dallas, TX 75216 | (972) 323-4200

To Whom It May Concern:

**Houston**

10711 KIPP Way  
Houston, TX 77099 | (832) 328-1051

**San Antonio**

731 Fredericksburg Road  
San Antonio, TX 78201 | (210) 734-4500

It is my pleasure to recommend Bernard McCune for an executive position, specifically, superintendent of schools. Mr. McCune has been an integral member of the Denver Public Schools leadership team for many years. In his many roles, he has increased student achievement, access to college, athletic competitiveness and fundraising. He also served as my deputy chief of schools in Oakland Unified School District, where he had the responsibility of overseeing instructional superintendents and school leaders. In both situations, Mr. McCune led with a collaborative approach, empowering others to be their best and he never backed down from making a tough decision when it came to the wellbeing of students.

In my current position as superintendent of KIPP Texas: San Antonio, Senior Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Schools, Assistant Superintendent and as a principal for 20 years, I have worked exclusively in turnaround schools in highly impacted urban areas. My success has been because of leaders that pushed, created vision and culture and believed that all students could achieve, Bernard McCune was one of those leaders. He has tremendous ability and many strengths.

Mr. McCune's biggest strength is his knowledge of systems and strategy. He is so strong; I would put his talents against any educational leader in the country. His ability to analyze, reflect and to plan strategically have produced major results and have assisted in transforming school systems. He has learned to navigate all the functional areas needed to be a successful superintendent, that cannot be learned except through hands-on experience.

As an educator, I believe that you must be a student of your craft to become the best. Although Mr. McCune is a life-long learner and is continuously looking for opportunities to further improve his skills as an educator.

Mr. McCune was unquestioningly committed to the district community, which was reflected in his work ethic and active participation in school, district, and community events. I would love to see this great educator assume a lead systems position for which he is well-prepared. It is my recommendation that Mr. McCune is strongly considered for this position. He will add instructional insight, deep thinking, relationship-building, and a systems-based organizational approach to your school system, which will result in high expectations and continued student achievement.

**Austin**

8509 FM 969 | Building 513  
Austin, TX 78724 | (512) 501-3640

**Dallas-Fort Worth**

3200 South Lancaster | Suite 230-A  
Dallas, TX 75216 | (972) 323-4200

**Houston**

10711 KIPP Way  
Houston, TX 77099 | (832) 328-1051

**San Antonio**

731 Fredericksburg Road  
San Antonio, TX 78201 | (210) 734-4500

If you need additional information or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (720) 427-1656.

Respectfully,

Allen Smith  
Superintendent



Student No: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 07-AUG

Date Issued: 04-AUG-2014

Record of: Bernard McCune

Page: 1

6916 S. Odessa Street  
Aurora, CO 80016

Issued To: Berrnard McCune

986 Ina Drive  
Alamo, CA 94507

Course Level: Graduate

SUBJ NO.

COURSE TITLE

CRED GRD

PTS R

Institution Information continued:

SUBJ NO. COURSE TITLE CRED GRD PTS R

Summer 2012

CCD 699B DS:Educational Leadership 2.00 X 0.00

EDL 690 Eductnl Ldrshp Internship 2.00 A 8.00

Ehrs: 2.00 GPA-Hrs: 2.00 QPts: 8.00 GPA: 4.00

INSTITUTION CREDIT:

Winter 2011

EDL 622 Curr Planning, Orgnztn &amp; Eval 3.00 A 12.00

EDL 626 Instructional Leadership 3.00 A 12.00

Ehrs: 6.00 GPA-Hrs: 6.00 QPts: 24.00 GPA: 4.00

Fall 2012

CCD 699B DS:Educational Leadership 2.00 X 0.00

EDL 690 Eductnl Ldrshp Internship 1.00 A 4.00

Ehrs: 1.00 GPA-Hrs: 1.00 QPts: 4.00 GPA: 4.00

Spring 2011

EDL 630 Undrstndg &amp; Using Educ Research 3.00 A 12.00

EDL 632 Data-driven Decision Making 3.00 A 12.00

Ehrs: 6.00 GPA-Hrs: 6.00 QPts: 24.00 GPA: 4.00

Winter 2013

EDL 604 Admin Issues f/Pluralistic Sch 3.00 A 12.00

EDL 608 Community Engagement 3.00 A 12.00

Ehrs: 6.00 GPA-Hrs: 6.00 QPts: 24.00 GPA: 4.00

Summer 2011

CCD 699B DS:Educational Leadership 2.00 X 0.00

EDL 690 Eductnl Ldrshp Internship 2.00 A 8.00

Ehrs: 2.00 GPA-Hrs: 2.00 QPts: 8.00 GPA: 4.00

Spring 2013

EDL 601 School Financial Management 3.00 A 12.00

EDL 620 School Ldrshp: Policy&amp;Politics 3.00 A 12.00

Ehrs: 6.00 GPA-Hrs: 6.00 QPts: 24.00 GPA: 4.00

Fall 2011

CCD 699B DS:Educational Leadership 2.00 X 0.00

EDL 690 Eductnl Ldrshp Internship 1.00 A 4.00

Ehrs: 1.00 GPA-Hrs: 1.00 QPts: 4.00 GPA: 4.00

Summer 2013

CCD 699B DS:Educational Leadership 2.00 X 0.00

EDL 690 Eductnl Ldrshp Internship 2.00 A 8.00

Ehrs: 2.00 GPA-Hrs: 2.00 QPts: 8.00 GPA: 4.00

Winter 2012

EDL 605 Leading Change 3.00 B 9.00

EDL 606 Princ&amp;Fundmntls of Sch Ldrshp 3.00 B 9.00

Ehrs: 6.00 GPA-Hrs: 6.00 QPts: 18.00 GPA: 3.00

Fall 2013

CCD 699B DS:Educational Leadership 2.00 X 0.00

EDL 690 Eductnl Ldrshp Internship 1.00 A 4.00

Ehrs: 1.00 GPA-Hrs: 1.00 QPts: 4.00 GPA: 4.00

Spring 2012

EDL 624 Profnl Dvlpmnt&amp;Sch Change 3.00 B 9.00

EDL 628 Organizational Inquiry 3.00 B 9.00

Ehrs: 6.00 GPA-Hrs: 6.00 QPts: 18.00 GPA: 3.00

Winter 2014

CCD 699BX Dissertation Continuation: EDL 0.00 X 0.00

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1886

**NATIONAL  
LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY****ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT**

Christine J. Quinn, Provost



Student No: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 07-AUG

Date Issued: 04-AUG-2014

Record of: Bernard McCune

Page: 2

Level: Graduate

SUBJ NO.	COURSE TITLE	CRED GRD	PTS R
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## Institution Information continued:

Ehrs: 0.00	GPA-Hrs: 0.00	Qpts: 0.00	GPA: 0.00
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## Spring 2014

CCD 699BX	Dissertation Continuation: EDL	0.00 X	0.00
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Ehrs: 0.00	GPA-Hrs: 0.00	Qpts: 0.00	GPA: 0.00
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## Summer 2014

## IN PROGRESS WORK

CCD 699BX	Dissertation Continuation:	0.00	IN PROGRESS
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Educational Leadership

In Progress Credits 0.00

## \*\*\*\*\* TRANSCRIPT TOTALS \*\*\*\*\*

	Earned Hrs	GPA Hrs	Points	GPA
TOTAL INSTITUTION	45.00	45.00	168.00	3.73
TOTAL TRANSFER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
OVERALL	45.00	45.00	168.00	3.73

## \*\*\*\*\* END OF TRANSCRIPT \*\*\*\*\*

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LOUIS  
UNIVERSITY**

ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT

Christine J. Quinn, Provost