



PO Box 311
Wallingford, VT 05773
<https://naacprutland.org>

I am writing this letter to express my wholehearted support for Judy Dow, an esteemed indigenous educator and the executive director of Gedakina, and her remarkable initiative, the "One Shelf Project." Having closely collaborated with Judy on various projects, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact she and her team have made in promoting cultural accuracy and competency, particularly in the context of Native American heritage and culture.

The "One Shelf Project" is a transformative endeavor that aims to foster cultural understanding and appreciation through the careful selection and vetting of books for schools. Judy and the Gedakina team invest considerable time and effort in researching and evaluating books suitable for different age groups, ensuring that the content is authentic, respectful, and aligned with the educational needs of students.

During a recent visit to a local school in southern Vermont, I had the privilege of observing Judy's teaching session and the donation of books to the school library. It was a truly remarkable experience that left an indelible impression on both the students and the educators present. Judy's engaging teaching style and the thoughtfully curated books ignited a sense of curiosity and appreciation for Native American cultures among the students, fostering an inclusive and diverse learning environment.

As the president of the Rutland Area NAACP, I often encounter challenges when working within bureaucratic systems, particularly when advocating for representation and cultural education. However, the "One Shelf Project" has been an outstanding success in our region, exemplifying the power of collaborative efforts and community engagement. Through this project, Judy Dow and Gedakina have forged meaningful relationships with local schools, facilitating a reciprocal exchange of cultural awareness and understanding.

Judy Dow's unwavering dedication and expertise in the field of cultural education make her an exceptional advocate for inclusivity and representation. Her work has played a vital role in breaking down barriers and fostering mutual respect among diverse populations. The "One Shelf Project" serves as a shining example of the transformative potential of educational initiatives rooted in cultural accuracy and competency.

I am writing this letter to offer my steadfast support for Judy Dow and the "One Shelf Project." By recognizing and endorsing this initiative, you will contribute to the invaluable work of promoting cultural awareness, understanding, and respect in educational institutions. The impact of the "One Shelf Project" extends far beyond the walls of the classroom, enriching the lives of students, their families, and the wider community.

Should you require any further information or testimonials regarding Judy Dow's exceptional abilities and the impact of the "One Shelf Project," please do not hesitate to reach out to me.



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I am more than willing to provide additional insights into the incredible work being done by Judy and Gedakina.

Thank you for considering this letter of support. Your recognition of the "One Shelf Project" and the importance of promoting cultural education would be a tremendous boost to its continued success.

Yours sincerely,

Mia Schultz (she/her)

President

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