



To whom it may concern,

As the superintendent of one of the largest school districts in the state of Oklahoma, every year I struggle with what sort of speaker to bring to our annual Back-to-School Celebration. It has to be someone who is not only entertaining, but who can also speak to a variety of employees – everyone from bus drivers and teachers to coaches and child nutrition workers – and inspire them to begin the new year on a positive note.

This year, we invited Richard Hight of Visual M pact to speak to our more than 2,000 employees, and I could not have selected a better keynote speaker for our event. His 30 minute performance opened with a high-energy song selection as the audience watched in amazement as a tiger – our school mascot – appeared on the black canvas before them. After completing the artwork, Richard's story of self-discovery held the audience captive, and for an audience of educators, it carried extra impact to learn it was a math teacher who unlocked Richard's artistic gifts. It was a poignant reminder that all of us, no matter what our role in the district – can positively impact the lives of our students.

Richard's simple, but powerful message was exactly what we all needed to hear – even me. As the superintendent, it can be easy to focus on the problems, the shortcomings, the areas of improvement, rather than focusing on our strengths. Yes, we should all be aware of those issues, but as Richard pointed out, if we will focus our time and energies on our strengths, the other areas will be improved in the process.

Richard Hight is not only a talented artist and gifted speaker, he is also one of the rare individuals who can remind others of their gifts, and inspire them to use them for the greater good of others. He has started our school year on exactly the path I would have chosen, and I cannot wait to see the hundreds of young lives that are changed because we, as educators, choose to see not their problems, but their potential.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jarod Mendenhall
Broken Arrow Public Schools Superintendent



"Committed to Excellence"

To Whom It May Concern:

This past August, McAlester Public Schools began the school year for teachers having Richard Hight from Visual Mpack as the keynote speaker. He was great – perfect for reminding us of the tremendous impact we have every day on the lives of children. McAlester teachers are still commenting on how much they enjoyed his inspiring story and motivational presentation.

Mr. Hight captures your attention from the start, creating a beautiful piece of art as he weaves his personal story of the difference one teacher made in his life.

Entertainment at its best!

Sincerely,

Marsha Gore, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent
McAlester Public Schools



ROSE STATE COLLEGE

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

(405) 733-7379

November 15, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Richard Hight was the featured speaker in our annual Diamond Leadership series. Diamond Leadership is an opportunity for our current and prospective students to hear renowned national speakers and enjoy fellowship. Richard brought with him amazing motivation, an outstanding message and a relatable, entertaining experience for the Rose State College Students.

Students were impressed by his extraordinary talent and down-to-earth message about finding one's passion. Richard's testimony made a positive impact on students at a time when it is generally difficult to engage them with a message. One student stated that "Richard Hight is an amazing man with extraordinary talent and a great story. He inspired me to focus on my strengths and to make my passions marketable. I loved this Diamond Leadership presentation."

Richard is a unique and dynamic force and is an excellent presentation choice for any audience. His message and story is extremely important for college students on the brinks of their careers. Rose State College is proud and honored that he was able to be a part of our 2008 Diamond Leadership Series.

Sincerely,

Towry Barnard
Coordinator, Student Activities
Rose State College



WESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE

Office of the President

Randy Cumby
President

May 12, 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is with great pleasure that I write a letter of recommendation for Mr. Richard Hight and fully endorse him as an exceptional speaker and artist! Mr. Hight literally held our commencement crowd at the edge of their seats. He created a very exceptional piece of art utilizing music and his talents to bring together various artist strokes through the use of chalk to a culminating finish – ending with a standing ovation. His comments after the artistic presentation were heartfelt and the audience was challenged to “see” the importance of commitment and what was truly important in the world we sometimes fail to see!

Of all of the commencement speakers that we have had on our campus, I personally feel that the only one that will long be remembered by all in attendance is Richard’s exceptional presentation. I will be glad to answer any questions that you might have. Mr. Hight has my highest recommendation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randy Cumby", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Randy Cumby
President



Sheridan Public Schools



400 North Rock Street – Sheridan, Arkansas 72150 – Phone: 870-942-3135 – Fax: 870-942-2931

January 17, 2013

To whom it may concern:

Re: Richard Hight

With the beginning of each school year comes the challenge of selecting a motivational speaker for our back-to-school faculty and staff assembly. Over the years, many speakers have caused us to reexamine our purpose and mission and reminded us of just how important we are in the lives of the children we teach, but none has inspired us quite like Richard Hight. From the moment he took the stage and began to use his talent of storytelling to share his personal journey of how a teacher saw beyond his disability of dyslexia and helped him to recognize his true talent as an artist, we knew we were about to experience an event like none other. However, it wasn't his storytelling that most amazed us, it was watching him as an artist at work. As music played in the background and he used chalk to draw on the canvas, we all watched, taking every step of the journey with him as he created a masterpiece. As he finished, he stepped away and unveiled the title of his masterpiece, our district's motto for the school year – "Every Student, Every Day, No Matter What it Takes". Then he spoke of masterpieces, what it takes to create them, and how masters sign their work with excellence. From the beginning, Richard captured everyone's attention and held it to the conclusion, but most importantly he spoke to our hearts. The memory of his presentation reminds us all that it is our destiny to show each and every student every day that he or she is truly a masterpiece.

Richard's presentation was inspiring, funny and one of the most entertaining ever. His use of humor mixed with real life experiences kept all that attended glued to every word. It was a great session and beautifully presented. Mr. Hight received a standing ovation from the group of approximately 500, which included administrators, faculty, and staff. I would highly recommend Richard Hight as a motivational speaker for any event.

Respectfully,

Brenda Haynes, Ed. D.

Dr. Brenda Haynes
Superintendent