INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
Dental Biomaterials
IUPUI

January 5, 2011

Karen M. Yoder, PhD, MSD
Professor and Director, Division of Community Dentistry
Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry
Indiana University School of Dentistry

Dear Dr. Yoder,

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Community "Amish" Dental Clinic in Shipshewana, Indiana for the "Chancellor's Community Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement". My interaction with the clinic has spanned a period of four years and has included both research and student involvement.

The clinic and its Board of Directors have been instrumental in introducing and supporting the presence of our research team in the Amish community. This has resulted in NIH and Foundation funding for work focused on the management of early caries. This important work promises to significantly aide the effort to erase the disparity in the incidence of caries that is seen within our population. Because of the stability of the community and the disease patterns present, the Amish community provides unique opportunities to pursue some of the questions that need to be answered. But, successful research access into this culture has required a committed effort on those connected to the Community Dental Clinic.

In addition to the research opportunities provided, the clinic supports dental students who elect to experience a public health clinic environment. In fact, my son was able to spend a week of his 4th year of dental school working in the clinic while being hosted by the then Chairman of the Clinic's Board of Directors. He has stated to me that the clinical experience and cultural exposure was one of the most significant pieces of his training while at IUPUI.

I strongly support this nomination and am available for further information, if needed.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A Platt

Digitally signed by Jeffrey A Platt
DN: cn=Jeffrey A Platt, o=Indiana University School of Dentistry, ou=Division of Dental Biomaterials, email=jplatt2@iupui.edu, c=US
Date: 2011.01.05 09:54:33 -05'00'

Jeffrey A. Platt, DDS, MS
Associate Professor of Dental Materials
Ralph W. Phillips Scholar in Dental Materials

1121 West Michigan Street, Room 118 Indianapolis, IN 46202-5186 (317) 274-8408 fax: (317) 278-7462

Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis