

Our City

As adjectives the difference between proud and prideful is that proud is gratified; feeling honoured (by something); feeling satisfied or happy about a fact or event while prideful is full of pride; haughty, arrogant. Proverb: - a short pithy saying in general use, stating a general truth or piece of advice. Example: *Pride goeth before a fall*. Interpretation: *People who are overconfident or too arrogant are likely to fail*. This saying is adapted from the biblical Book of Proverbs 16:18.

While I have never been prideful I have always been proud of who I am, where I come from, who I at times represent and always my students. And, especially those students who choose to grow through venturing beyond the easy and their everyday routines of what is safe and comfortable. Students who pursue the greater good, who often times selflessly do for others without regard for personal return. Students who humbly take pride in who they are, where they come from and those they represent and do so with a degree of professionalism that is admirable for a person of any age.

As I write this on an early Saturday morning in Indianapolis, Indiana they are writing to you to express their gratitude for the opportunity many of you chose freely to give them through your continued support and donations to their ongoing efforts to improve and develop into their best selves. Seven of these students have dedicated the last year in an effort to help develop and expand economic development and recreational opportunities in our community; while four others have focused on expanding agricultural literacy and knowledge among the increasingly diverse populations of Idaho's students. Not easy tasks. Frankly, tasks that few other students anywhere, or adults for that matter, are willing to undertake. I suspect that failure or fall if encountered will not detour the path they have each embarked upon. So, YES, I am proud of them. And, with good reason.

I am proud to be associated with a community and School District that takes pride in its diversity and while that diversity brings certain challenges these challenges in themselves have provided opportunities for the whole to become better. I have written previously about the new Community Learning Center that has been provided by the School District at what remains of the old Intermediate School and just down the hall from the District Office. The Community Learning Center will be hosting an open house on November 6th from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. I encourage you to join us and see what we can do together to make our good better and our better best.

Similarly, I will be meeting Superintendent Jensen and other education professionals from across the state next week, on November 13th, to put together a framework that will provide for internships and apprenticeships for businesses of all types, but with a focus on those in the agricultural spectrum, within our community. Once that framework is in place we will be reaching out to agriculturists and business owners to see what their current and future needs are. When those needs have been identified we will begin the process of matching potential careers with students as together we take the next step in growing our own.

Looking back on the week that was - I reflect. Looking to the future - I prepare for what can be. Looking at both - I am proud. Not prideful, but proud. While we may stumble on

occasion we will not fall or fail in our combined efforts; for I know without question that I am not alone in the pride I take in continually striving to make American Falls the very best place to live.

Until next week...