

Public Pulse

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The Public Pulse

A good example

I enjoyed World-Herald staff writer Kevin Cole's Jan. 19 news story about Jerus Sime earning a letter for his work as student manager of the Millard West basketball team.

Congratulations to Sime, a senior with Down syndrome, on this accomplishment and for the leadership, encouragement, enthusiasm and character-building skills he brings to the team. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Kudos also to Millard West Coach Rick Hook and Sime's Individualized Education Planning team for their open-mindedness and willingness to recognize Sime's participation as important to his education. Unlike kids in general education who take for granted participation in extracurricular activities, kids in special education are required to have special approval from their school's IEP team.

Finally, congratulations to Sime's parents for their dedication and perseverance in his education. Sime's role-modeling demonstrates that even kids with disabilities benefit from student achievement opportunities if the schools will grant them permission to do so.

Similarly, it is expected that students in the free- and reduced-lunch program and English-language learners will benefit if Legislative Bill 547 (the Nebraska Student Advantage Act) is passed.

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