

May 26, 2021

I am honored to write to you on behalf of **Brigido S. Garza**, the current Orchestra Director at Robert E. Lee High School, Midland, Texas. I truly believe that Beau, as he is affectionately called, is a very gifted and talented teacher and would be a wonderful choice for the Texas Orchestra Director's Board as Member-At-Large.

Beau graduated from Permian High School in Odessa - May, 2001; earned a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock in 2006, having done his student teaching under my tutelage in the spring of his final semester. Upon graduation, Beau joined the orchestral staff at Midland Independent School District as a junior high director. His duties also included three elementary schools. After a one year stint, he went over to Ector County ISD as the Orchestra Director at Nimitz Jr. High. In the summer of 2008, I recruited him to come back to Midland as the Lee Freshman Orchestra Director and my assistant at Lee High School. When I retired from MISD – having taught thirty seven years – I could not think of anyone that I would feel comfortable “turning the program over to” than Mr. Brigido Garza. I've had the privilege to know and work closely with Beau, as he has grown into a really great teacher, coach, and mentor to several of the high school students and beginning string teachers.

Beau is very knowledgeable, and imparts that knowledge in a way that the students grasp the concepts being taught, and strive to pattern after him. He is constantly learning and spends long hours planning and figuring out how to be even more successful than he already is. I am so proud of his progress and the many wonderful things he is doing with the Lee Orchestra. He is very creative and energetic in his approach to teaching. The students are having so much fun as they “step up” to the challenges he puts in front of them. The progress these students are making under his direction is amazing.

Beau is a gifted violist as well and performs with the Midland-Odessa Symphony Orchestra. As a performer, he is very sensitive, expressive, and handles the technical aspects of that position admirably. I see lots of his expertise on his instrument being transferred over to his teaching. He possesses many qualities that most organizations/corporations/schools desire in an employee.

He is honest, trustworthy, dependable and very organized with a high level of integrity, and a gentle sense of humor. He is without a doubt one of the finest young teachers I've had the pleasure of knowing and working with. His students love him because he demands excellence from them. They respect him because of his fine training, experience, and the high level of expertise he demonstrates as he makes a huge difference in their lives.

I strongly recommend Brigido S. Garza to you. He is a “*class act*” and would be a perfect candidate for consideration to the TODA Board.

Sincerely,

Karen L. McAfee,
Retired Lee High School Orchestra Director
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