



A Letter from Surge International CEO Dave Irby to School Principals

From the time I was four years old I knew I wanted to be a history teacher like my dad (my mom was also a public school teacher).

My sophomore year of college I transferred from Cypress Community College to Azusa Pacific University and played soccer for the first time on their first varsity soccer team.

By the time I graduated from APU I had played four seasons on the Cougar soccer team, had completed a double major in Physical Education and Social Science, and a California State Teaching Credential.

At the ripe old age of twenty-three I became the Head Coach for the men's soccer team at my alma mater. During that time I completed my Master's Degree in Teaching (MAT/University of La Verne) and began substitute teaching in the local public schools.

Two "life changing" experiences occurred during that time. I had a day off from substitute teaching so I went over to APU to listen to a guest speaker, Dr. Tony Campolo. At the end of his speech he asked us to raise our hands if we really wanted to make a difference in the world we live in...I raised my hand.

Several months later when I was asked to bring the Cougar soccer team to Mexicali, Mexico over Spring Break I jumped at the chance.

We played soccer in the men's prison, boy's prison and on a dirt field covered with broken glass. When I asked why the boys were in prison, the answer stunned me, "No one cares about them"...and thus my life course was set.

An important part of that "life choice" I made that day was to use the world's sport, soccer, to have a positive impact on children around the world. And though, I never did become a history teacher like my dad, I have never forgotten my parent's commitment to public education.

So let me close with these thoughts, one from an elementary school student we impacted, and one from a teacher:

"I was going to join a gang, now I know I can join a 'soccer gang'."
An Elementary School Student after a soccer clinic at his school

*"I can say something all year long to my students,
but when a Surge player in uniform comes and says the same thing,
it makes all the difference."*
Elementary School PE Teacher after we conducted soccer clinics in his PE classes

Please invite us to partner with you and your students and your community

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David F. Irby
CEO,
Surge International

There is no religious content in our school assemblies - unless requested

Note to Salem/Keizer Schools: While the Cascade Surge no longer plays locally in a league, the team will "reform" for special international projects. Our school assemblies will feature some of those same players, like **Surge Team Captain Grant Knight**, coming back to the USA from Vienna to help with school assemblies.

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