APPENDIX E: SAMPLE RESPONSE TO A POSTING

Julia's Posting
re: One Student
One student immediately came to my mind after reading this topic. The class I observe is a regular senior government class. I sit off to the side while the rest of the class is in a circle. This sounds like I am not involved, but the teacher does include me in the class. There is not room for a couple of students in the circle so they also sit to the side. One boy sits next to me. When the teacher asks the students questions, this boy always says the answers under his breath. They are almost always right. Whenever this student has had questions, he has asked me. I am sure he does this since I sit right there. He seems very knowledgeable, but quiet.

For the first time the teacher "accidentally" heard one of the student's responses. The teacher asked who made the comment. When he realized that this particular student made the comment, he started including this boy in the class discussion. I am so glad the teacher is including him now. This student has many productive statements to make. He is always paying attention. I felt that his comments will benefit the entire class.

supervisor's response
re: Julia's One Student
This sounds like a tough classroom set up. Are there students who don't fit in the circle because of space constraints or are they the ones who arrive last or what? It almost sounds like a self-fulfilling prophecy that this one student sits on the outside. I'm so glad you were there to draw attention to him. Keep watching him to see how he responds to this new attention from the teacher. You never know which way that will affect student.