

To: Dr. Andrea Lachance, Chair
Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department

From: Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department Personnel Committee
C. Benton, Chair; B. Klein, S. Stratton, O. White

Re: Continuing Appointment of Dr. Kimberly Rombach

Date: March 5, 2010

With great enthusiasm, the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department Personnel Committee unanimously recommends Dr. Kimberly Rombach for Continuing Appointment (committee vote: 4 in favor, none opposed). This conclusion is based on review of her well-developed electronic portfolio and the level of excellence Dr. Rombach demonstrates in her professional activities, which clearly meet and exceed department criteria.

Teaching

Dr. Rombach has a distinguished record of outstanding teaching. She has taught eight different courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, a comparatively high number for Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department load. For all of her courses, Dr. Rombach has set clear and ambitious goals and engages in deep reflection on the purpose, conduct and success of her teaching. She sets out explicit pedagogical and philosophical goals which result in unique and strong student connections with learning content, and the creation of learning community in her courses.

Dr. Rombach's excellence is confirmed by her students' feedback, and numerical CTEs which are consistently between 4.8 and 5.0. Student remarks emphasize her ability to address every student's needs. Some representative comments from students include:

Dr. Rombach is very intelligent and compassionate and we learned so much from her. She was a great professor who really cared about the success of her students.

She was fun and energetic about teaching. Work was graded fairly. Kim is an inspiration to me as a future teacher

This class has been such a joy to be part of. The workload was intense at times but worthwhile. Instructor was abundantly kind and thoughtful. She patiently accommodated all our various needs and allowed us some flexibility.

Dr. Rombach's demonstrated rigor, breadth and success with teaching confirm her contribution to the department and college, and clearly exceed the requirements for Continuing Appointment.

Scholarship

Dr. Rombach demonstrates continuous and sustained development as a scholar, and in establishing ongoing research efforts to benefit the department and college, consistent with requirements for Continuing Appointment. Since her last review, she has completed five presentations and had one publication accepted, "Clarifying Research Synthesis on Inclusion" in the 2009 *Electronic Journal for Inclusive Education*. She has one article under review with the *Teaching Exceptional Children* journal, and she has one article in preparation. One habit which Dr. Rombach consistently demonstrates is the staged preparation of work (some submitted, some in process, some just beginning). This habit has been successful, in that her record includes 19 scholarly works which meet departmental criteria since beginning at SUNY Cortland.

Dr. Rombach received a Drescher Award for fall 2009, to support her ongoing research on inclusive education and teaching. In addition, she received a Professional Development Schools Grant in 2008, a focus area that supports her teaching. In the capacity of grant primary investigator, she met extensively with public school personnel, defining ways to make teacher preparation more meaningful for both inclusive education and typical childhood education pre-service teachers. Such collaborations are a hallmark of her scholarly agenda.

Service

Dr. Rombach has a strong record of service, appropriately developed over her time at SUNY Cortland. She has served as the Graduate Coordinator of the Master's of Science in Teaching program (with released time), managing that program, which remains one of the strongest graduate programs on campus. Her college-wide service includes: the Long Range Planning Committee; the Faculty Development Committee; Senator representing the School of Education. On the department level, she has served on the Personnel Committee, on the Equity & Diversity Committee, Chair's Advisory Committee, Graduate Curriculum Committee, on search committees and on a number of ad hoc committees. She was instrumental in preparing the SPA/NCATE report for the MST Program. She has served as a reviewer for national and international associations (American Educational Research Association and American Association for Colleges for Teacher Education), as well as a book reviewer for Allyn & Bacon. Her service has met and exceeded that expected of an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Rombach's record and her ability to set goals, analyze and redirect her efforts so clearly and consistently make it a clear imperative to recognize her impeccable professional direction and affirm her Continuing Appointment in the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department. We do so with confidence in her continued contribution to the college and profession.

Cynthia Benton

Cynthia Benton, Chair

Elizabeth Klein

Elizabeth Klein

Susan Stratton

Susan Stratton

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