

■ Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department

To: School of Education Personnel Committee

From: Cynthia J. Benton, Chair, Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department 

Date: March 14, 2007

Re: Reappointment of **Dr. Kimberly Rombach, Assistant Professor**

I strongly concur with the recommendation of the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department Personnel Committee for the reappointment of **Dr. Kimberly Rombach** for a **two-year appointment**. Dr. Rombach has sustained a high level of productivity, excellence in teaching, innovation in service to the department and college, and made significant accomplishments in scholarly work.

Teaching. Dr. Rombach continues to demonstrate exceptional skills as a teacher. Her courses include undergraduate and graduate social studies methods, Masters of Science in Teaching technology, practicum and research courses, and advanced social education and technology courses in the M.S. Ed Program. Success with this range of preparations indicates Dr. Rombach's dedication to deliver appropriate and inspiring instruction to all students, while at the same time, she maintains high standards for the programs. Her CTEs are among the highest in the department, and student comments underscore her effectiveness in a broad range of courses. Students mention her organization, high standards and clear evaluative methods as well as her consistently effective, kind, and personalized interactions with them.

Dr. Rombach's innovations and sustained development of technology continue to distinguish her teaching, including websites for class use, and building a learning community, the Education for Social Transformation Thematic Block. The early fruition of her coordination of the Masters of Science in Teaching Program have been evident in student electronic portfolios, increasingly sophisticated writing, and graduates who demonstrate a greater openness to meeting the demands of the classroom. Dr. Rombach has become a reliable model and a source of direction for positive student and faculty development and for excellence in teaching in our department.

Scholarship. Dr. Rombach continues to demonstrate strong scholarly productivity, adding an impressive number of grants, refereed papers, and presentations to her portfolio

since her last review. Dr. Rombach secured a Summer Research Fellowship, a Faculty Research Program Grant, an Individual Development Award, and six internal grants to support her research activity. In keeping with the ambitious goals she set for herself during her first years on campus, she has maintained clear planning and sustained advancement in scholarly work.

Outcomes of her research have been presented at six national and international conferences, with two additional presentations scheduled for this spring. Her papers have been accepted at conferences for the American Educational Research Association and the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, both organizations with rigorous acceptance criteria. In addition to paper presentations, Dr. Rombach has been published in proceedings for The Society of Information Technology and Teacher Education, and she has two articles under review.

Dr. Rombach has established a challenging research agenda, and additional formal publications and documentation of grant activities are expected by the time of her continuing appointment review.

Service. Dr. Rombach continues to be a leader in service as well as teaching in our department. She has very capably assumed the coordination of the Masters of Science in Teaching Program, improving the administrative operations for that program. She served as a Faculty Senator, chaired the CECE Research and Technology Committee, chaired the CECE Social Studies Search Committee, and is the advisor for the Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society.

Dr. Rombach is actively involved in the scholarly community, serving as a book reviewer for Allyn & Bacon and performing as a proposal reviewer for AERA. She is a member of the College Scholarship Committee and the Faculty Development Committee at the college level. She has been active in community/school activities, including the Children's Museum, and a number of public school collaborations. She has been influential in improving the nature of our departmental interactions, our working environment, and our relationships with colleagues outside the department, through her devotion to equity and diversity.

Dr. Rombach has demonstrated exceptional effort and accomplishment in all areas of academic performance—teaching, scholarship and service. She is to be commended for her level of achievement, and I recommend her for a two-year reappointment, confident she will continue to develop as an exceptional colleague and leader on our campus.