

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Prus
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Gerald Porter
Dean, School of Education

DATE: April 10, 2009

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Reappointment – Dr. Kimberly Rombach

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Kimberly Rombach as Assistant Professor in the Department of Childhood/Early Childhood (CEC) for a one year reappointment. Her reappointment is limited to one year because she will be reviewed for continuing appointment in the 2009-2010 academic year. This recommendation is based on a thorough review of Dr. Rombach's excellent online portfolio. She was unanimously recommended for reappointment by the CEC Department and School of Education Personnel Committees, and her reappointment was supported by the Chair of the CEC Department as well.

Teaching:

Dr. Rombach is an excellent teacher. Over the years she has taught a wide range of both undergraduate and graduate courses at SUNY Cortland. She describes her teaching as an "interactive synthesis of theory and practice." She employs a constructivist approach that she characterizes as a "collaborative conversation."

Dr. Rombach's overall CTE mean of 4.8 provides quantitative evidence of her teaching excellence. Student comments corroborate this conclusion. Repeatedly over the years and from one course to another, students say things like "Kim is a great teacher" or "She is the best professor I've ever had in college" and "Kim was amazing." These sentiments were echoed again and again by students.

Scholarship:

Dr. Rombach has made good progress in the area of scholarship. She reports that she currently has one peer-reviewed article in press, another in review, and still another in preparation. She has three other scholarly publications. Dr. Rombach has thirteen peer-reviewed conference

presentations, of which eleven were at national or international conferences. She has engaged in an impressive amount of grant activity. She was a co-principal investigator in a New York State Higher Education Support Center for Systems Change Research grant that has been awarded over \$46,000 in the past two years. Since coming to Cortland, Dr. Rombach has gotten nine internal grants including a 2008 Student Computing Access Program (SCAP) award and a 2007 Online Course Development Grant. She developed, with Dr. David Smukler in the Department of Foundations and Social Advocacy, and was awarded funding for the Unified Teaching and Learning Initiative (UTLI) project of the Cortland City Professional Development School. She has recently applied for the 2009 Nuala McGunn Drescher Award for a project entitled "IMPACT2: Inclusive Models: Promoting Aligned Collaboration through Technology." Dr. Rombach's personal organization and professionalism is remarkable. She has explicitly identified three goals for herself as a researcher and she evaluates herself in terms of these goals.

Service:

Dr. Rombach has a solid record of service contributions to the department, the school, the college, her profession, and the larger community. Since 2006, she has served as the Program Coordinator for the MST Program in Childhood Education. Her considerable department service includes but is not limited to current membership on the Personnel and Research & Technology Committees. She previously served on several search committees and as the Inclusive Elementary Education Block 1 Coordinator. At the college level, she represented the School of Education on the search committee for the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and as a representative on Faculty Senate. She now sits on three college committees including Long Range Planning, Faculty Development, and the College Scholarship Committee. Dr. Rombach for the past four years has been an Annual Meeting Proposal Reviewer for Division K of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). She has performed similar review work for Allyn & Bacon Publishers since 2006. She provides service to area public schools and has been particularly active with the Westhill Central School District. She holds membership in five professional organizations including AERA, the Association of Childhood Education International (ACEI), and the honor society, Phi Kappa Phi.

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xc: Dr. Kimberly Rombach, Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department
✓ Dr. Andrea Lachance, Chair, Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department
Dr. Cynthia Benton, Chair, Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department Personnel Committee
Dr. Ellen Jampole, Chair, School of Education Personnel Committee