

February 3, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

Please accept this letter as my letter of support for Dr. Orvil White's reappointment review as his colleague. My name is Lin Lin, assistant professor of social studies education. I have been teaching in the same team with Dr. White since he came to teach as an assistant professor of science education in the department of childhood and early childhood in 2007. Learning from students' comments, my own observation of his teaching, and conversations with him about pre-service teacher's professional development, I am confident Dr. White has met all the requirements to be reappointed.

I have always been impressed with the excellence of his teaching. Dr. White is an enthusiastic and passionate teacher, who demonstrates his knowledge, skills, and values in science education through his presentations. His science method course is a wonderful experience for students to learn about science through innovative and engaging activities. To help students understand differentiated instruction, he invites his wife to present to his students every semester. His course requirements are vigorous as well as meaningful. The focus he puts on inquiry learning in science helps transform students' learning and teaching experiences.

The childhood program has always scheduled a field trip to Raquette Lake as a unique experience for teacher candidates. Dr. White plans for the trip with his team members and never complains about the amount of preparation he makes before each trip. He integrates science, particularly environmental science content into the trip. Teacher candidates not only have an unforgettable bonding experience through his team building activities, but also learn practical strategies to integrate environmental awareness into their teaching in science.

Since fall 2007, Dr. White has made remarkable achievements in research as well. As far as I can remember, he was one of the awardees of the Faculty Research Grant and successfully obtained an external grant to bring doctoral students from Thailand to Cortland. The grant supported his research trip to Thailand where he offered professional training workshops for teachers and students. His commitment to international education is an inspiration to me. He has published quite a few journal articles and presented at numerous national and international conferences. I believe he is working on other research projects that will contribute to inquiry in science teacher education.

Besides teaching and scholarly work, Dr. White serves as a faculty senate on campus and works on other committees at the levels of department, school of education, and the college. I always enjoy coming to his session with my son when he teaches children with his students at the Children's Museum on Saturdays. His engaging activities have become the favorite programs for children and parents in the community.

I believe other people will write about his other achievements. I respect Dr. White as a colleague and strongly support his reappointment. Thank you for your consideration and review.

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