

TO: School of Education Personnel Committee *A. Lachance*
FROM: Andrea Lachance, Associate Professor and Chair,
Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department
DATE: October 30, 2009
RE: Continuing Appointment of Dr. Lin Lin

After carefully reviewing Dr. Lin Lin's on-line professional portfolio, I am strongly recommending Dr. Lin Lin for continuing appointment as an Assistant Professor in the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department. The rationale for this recommendation is explained in the sections below.

Teaching

The evidence in Dr. Lin's portfolio demonstrates that she is an exceptional teacher. She has taught both undergraduate courses and graduate courses in Social Studies education. Across the various sections of courses she has taught, student evaluations of Dr. Lin's efforts are extremely positive. Overall, her CTE ratings range from the mid-4's to 5's. Student comments are also very positive. The following is typical of the tone and content of the statements students make about Dr. Lin's teaching: "Lin Lin is one of the best professors I have taken at Cortland. The demonstrations she chooses for class are beneficial and directly correspond with elementary education classroom lessons. She has taught me that history can be fun for students as long as there is interesting lessons and an enthusiastic teacher!"

Dr. Lin has also shown great innovation in her teaching. She makes full use of the capabilities of her eLearning classrooms by having students submit work on-line and posting class materials on her website. She revised the graduate course, EDU 524: Democracy and Social Education, to be a fully on-line course, and it is now one of the department's most popular courses. Dr. Lin has also created provoking and creative assignments to transform her students' thinking about the world. One such assignment is the Windows on World (WOW) assignment where students have to research and present information about a third world or developing country. This helps students to see beyond their own experiences with a first world culture.

I have observed Dr. Lin teach on numerous occasions over the past four years. With each observation, I come away impressed with Dr. Lin's enthusiastic and engaging presentation style and the depth of the content she covers. She develops the trust of her

students which allows her to productively challenge their thinking and assumptions about the world and teaching. Dr. Lin is clearly a gifted teacher, and her teaching skills are widely admired both within our department and across the campus.

Scholarship

Dr. Lin has made excellent progress on her scholarly agenda. In the spring of 2009, she was awarded a Drescher Leave to conduct a children's literature-based social studies program and to examine its effectiveness on children's reading comprehension. This work built on a Faculty Research Award she received in 2008. Dr. Lin is currently analyzing her results, but she has already submitted a proposal for presentation of her work in 2010 at the American Educational Research Association's annual meeting. She already has chosen a journal to submit the manuscript resulting from this project.

The process Dr. Lin has followed with her children's literature-based social studies program is the process she has followed with several other scholarly projects she has undertaken. She develops and implements an idea, often with colleagues, collects data, presents at a conference, and develops the manuscript for publication. The result of her very organized and focused scholarly efforts has been five publications in the last four years. All of the publications are in refereed journals which are well known in her field.

In addition to her publications, Dr. Lin has been an active participant and presenter at conferences. Over the past four years, she has made sixteen presentations at national and regional conferences in her field. She is also becoming known as an expert in our area on cross-cultural perspectives on issues in social studies education and has been invited to present her work to two local groups.

The work that Dr. Lin has accomplished in the area of scholarship is evidence that she not only has clear ideas of how she can best contribute to her field, but also has developed productive strategies for actually making those contributions. Given her short timetable for achieving continuing appointment, Dr. Lin's significant scholarly achievements are laudable.

Service

Dr. Lin has provided evidence that she is engaging in service at a variety of levels. She has consistently participated in departmental service activities, such as serving on departmental search committees, acting as a second reader on master's projects, and assisting colleagues with their course endeavors. She has recently been elected to the School Curriculum Committee and will act as chair of that committee. In the community, Dr. Lin is generous in sharing her time and talents by volunteering at the SUNY Cortland Children's Museum, the Homer Center for the Performing Arts, and Barry School PTA.

Given Dr. Lin's clear leadership and organizational skills, I would encourage her to extend her service activities at the college level and consider taking more leadership roles as part of her service activities. Dr. Lin has the capacity to be a productive leader

on campus and would be a valuable member of any committee on which she chooses to serve.

Summary

The evidence in Dr. Lin's on-line professional portfolio demonstrates she has clearly met, and in some areas exceeded, the high expectations for continuing appointment in the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department. She is an extremely productive member of our department, an outstanding teacher, and a valued colleague. I look forward to Dr. Lin's continued positive contributions to our department, our college, and our community.