



May 25, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Generally, we have a strict rule in CETL at Minnesota State University, Mankato to NOT write letters of recommendations for faculty members, because of issues of confidentiality. However, I am happy to write this letter of support for Dr. Elizabeth Sandell, because she served as the Acting Director of CETL during the 2009 spring semester, while I was on sabbatical.

I first met Dr. Sandell when she worked in the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) in the Office of the Chancellor for the Minnesota State College and University System (MnSCU) in St. Paul. I was an Active Learning Advocate, along with 13 other MnSCU faculty developers, and Beth was the "supervisor" of that program in CTL. I knew quickly that she was a talented and organized person who also understood the importance and potential of faculty development on our campuses. Then, Beth arrived as a tenure-track faculty member in the College of Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato. When I was granted a sabbatical leave, I quickly asked Beth to consider substituting as Acting Director for CETL, a role which she ultimately agreed to accept.

During the 2009 spring semester, Dr. Sandell did nearly every activity that I would have done. She kept the momentum going with the Faculty Teaching Certificate Program and other Communities of Practice. She attended meetings related to Academic Service Learning. She continued the work on our campus for the CASTL Leadership Program and specifically designed and carried out a project to document student and faculty perceptions of teaching and learning. This project meant getting IRB approval of the project design, recruiting students and faculty members to be focus group members, hours of organization, facilitating focus group meetings, and transcribing the discussion and conversation.

In addition, Beth took initiative to research the CETL faculty participation patterns and statistics for the past seven years. This proved very helpful in a presentation I did at AAC & U's annual conference in San Diego recently, where we shared the CETL success story in a pre-conference workshop. The retrospective report was also valuable for a presentation that Beth shared at the Faculty Teaching Certificate Program Award Luncheon.

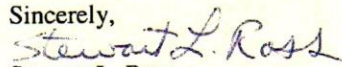
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At the end of 2009 spring semester, Beth volunteered to draft the annual report about our campus' work to send to the CTL office in St. Paul. This meant collecting information and material about the entire academic year and presenting it in summary format.

I am especially pleased that Dr. Sandell was able to demonstrate the talent typical of faculty members from the College of Education. Sometimes, and in some institutions, faculty members treat their education faculty colleagues with less respect than they give to content-specific academics. By her work and creativity, Beth was able to refute this point of view. Beth is a leader, with vision and a terrific work ethic. These traits combined to make her an excellent Acting Director of CETL at MSU, Mankato. I was proud of her work and proud to have been smart (and brave) enough to encourage her to accept the position.

I recommend Beth for contract renewal and for tenure at MSU without hesitation based on her admirable work with CETL this past semester. We were lucky to find her and have her accept the position!

Sincerely,



Stewart L. Ross
Director of CETL