

Dear Dr. XXX:

Thank you for inviting me to serve as an external reviewer for XXX who is a candidate for tenure at XXX. I am delighted to offer my evaluation of Dr. XXX's scholarly and professional contributions to XXX. I write from two vantage points: as a faculty member at XXX, and as XXX. I have had the pleasure of working with and learning from Dr. XXX since 1997 when she became involved in XXX. I have learned a great deal from her about how to build successful community-campus partnerships in the health professions, how to move from service to community-engaged scholarship, and how to collaborate with communities in applying that scholarship to improve health and health care – all accomplishments that are hallmarks of Dr. XXX's career. I believe Dr. XXX deserves tenure because she has met or exceeded the criteria, as I explain below:

Educational preparation and certification. Dr. XXX clearly has the academic credentials to excel as a scholar. But perhaps even more importantly, she exhibits a deep commitment to lifelong learning, and to continuously integrating, improving and building upon her teaching, research and service activities.

Exemplary teaching and educational innovation. Dr. XXX is a leading practitioner of service-learning in nursing. She has also developed innovative ways to convey critical content in health promotion, chronic disease prevention and the health of vulnerable populations into the curricula of XXX. She is frequently consulted for advice and assistance early on in the development of new community-based courses and programs. We have tapped into her expertise in these areas as well, having invited Dr. XXX to serve as a faculty mentor for XXX and as a consultant to campuses that are developing service-learning courses and programs. She is learner-centered in her approach – for example, by considering and responding to the needs and learning styles of her students and by being accessible to them.

Exemplary scholarship. Dr. XXX represents the best of what community-based participatory can be. Her scholarship can best be described as community-engaged and action-oriented. Not only has she formed partnerships with communities, conducted intervention-based research to understand and address health disparities and disseminated findings in the peer-reviewed literature, but she has at the same time built community capacity for improving health and achieved demonstrable improvements in the health status of vulnerable populations. She has developed authentic partnerships with local community-based organizations that have resulted in sustained community-based programs, productive research partnerships and improved health status. By publishing and presenting in a variety of venues and settings, her scholarship is reaching the community leaders, educators, researchers, practitioners and policymakers that can benefit most from her work. Her scholarship is contributing to the growing empirical base on community-based participatory research that is sorely needed by community, academe and policymakers alike.

I believe that as a tenured professor Dr. XXX will make even more contributions in all of these areas at the national leadership level. I look forward to being able to point junior faculty to Dr. XXX as a model of a community-engaged scholar and that yes, one can get tenure for exemplary community-engaged scholarship!

Thank you for the opportunity to write this letter as an external reviewer for Dr. XXX. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at XXX or by email at XXX

Sincerely,

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