

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

TO: Jay Akridge, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity
FROM: Christine M. Ladisch, Dean *Christine M. Ladisch*
DATE: July 21, 2017
RE: Nomination of Michele R. Forman for distinguished professorship

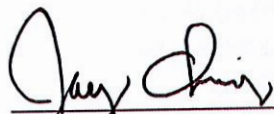
I am pleased to forward this request to you for conferral of a distinguished professorship to Michele R. Forman. Specifically, we seek approval to appoint Dr. Forman as a *Distinguished Professor of Nutrition Science*.

Dr. Forman came to Purdue in January 2017 to become the Head of the Department of Nutrition Science. At her prior institution, the University of Texas at Austin, she was honored to be the David Bruton Endowed Centennial Professor. Her research has contributed significantly to the understanding of nutrition and its role in women's health. She is a recognized leader in her field, with over 150 publications, numerous professional society awards and recognitions, a long history of NIH funding, a reputation as an innovator in bringing teams together which transverse disciplinary boundaries to tackle tough problems, and a member of key committees charged with making recommendations pertaining to national health-related policy.

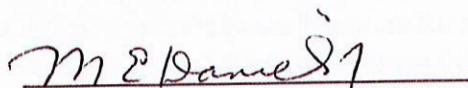
In concert with the strong support expressed by a preeminent team of Purdue distinguished professors, as well as the HHS area promotions committee, I enthusiastically endorse this nomination.

Approval Recommended:

Approved:



Jay Akridge, Interim Provost and Executive
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., President



WHISTLER CENTER FOR CARBOHYDRATE RESEARCH
Department of Food Science

Dean Christine M. Ladisch
 Purdue University College of Health and Human Sciences
 Stone Hall, Room 110
 West Lafayette, IN 47907-1168

May 7, 2017

Dear Dean Ladisch:

The committee you appointed to review the documents of Prof. Michelle Forman for qualification to receive the title of Distinguished Professor of Nutrition Science met on February 22. The group reviewed the nomination letter from Profs. Teegarden and Jiang, eight supporting letters of reference, and Dr. Forman's curriculum vitae. After discussion, the members of the committee voted unanimously to recommend that professor Forman be granted the title of Distinguished Professor at Purdue University.

Professor Forman recently came to Purdue in January 2017 to become the Head of the Department of Nutrition Science at Purdue. She has an impressive and distinguished previous record of accomplishments and impactful research. Most recently, she was at University of Texas at Austin where she was Department Head and the David Bruten Endowed Centennial Professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. Before that, she was Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Texas MD Andersen Cancer Center, and Senior Nutrition Epidemiologist, Principal Investigator, and Section Chief of Translational Epidemiology at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. She also held faculty positions at Emory University and George Washington University. In nearly all cases, she has held other formal positions in associated departments or schools (e.g., Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, when at MD Andersen), showing a consistent and strong ability to collaborate and to transverse disciplinary boundaries. She obtained her three graduate degrees at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Epidemiology (MSPH), Nutritional Anthropology (MA), and Nutritional Epidemiology (PhD).

Because she so recently came to Purdue, her reference letters and CV were presented and explained to the committee to be from her application process for the Department Head position she now occupies. In our discussion, the committee agreed that this was sufficient and that the dossier was complete to evaluate Dr. Forman's record for obtaining the Distinguished Professor title.

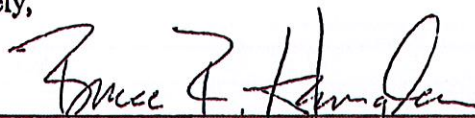
The committee felt that Dr. Forman's documents were strong and supportive for attaining Distinguished Professor (comments of, "well above the threshold", "above the norm"). Moreover, she is a recognized leader in her field with not only an extensive publication list (over 155 as of mid-2016, with 9 in process) and many examples of paradigm-shifting research, but also as an energetic innovator in bringing teams together to tackle complex problems. She is Fellow of the American Society of Nutrition, American Society of Clinical Nutrition, and the American College of Epidemiology, and is member of the European Academy of Sciences (2016). She has a number of awards, including three from the National Institutes of Health (2005, 2013 and 2014).

Dr. Forman's research is perhaps best known in the area of nutritional aspects of women's health, particularly nutritional health during pregnancy and its effect on child and adult health related to breast and hormonal cancer development and obesity. She and her teams have been instrumental in understanding how nutritional health of the pregnant mother influences lifecourse risk of disease, and her groundbreaking early work in this area was noted to be a reason its current research emphasis. She has led 10 large national and international longitudinal cohort studies to track human populations over time for risk of disease related to nutritional status. She also developed new methods to use in such field studies, and is recognized for this work. In her dossier, there is a repeated mention of her ability to understand and link human molecular science to epidemiology and she has studied the role of diet and epigenetics during pregnancy and in the child after birth and into childhood. This is an extension of her interest and extensive work on how diet affects women and their offspring.

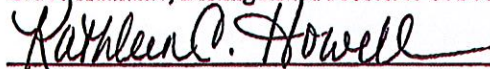
The eight supporting letters of reference were uniformly very strong and came from colleagues and collaborators from University of Texas, Baylor College of Medicine, Tufts University, Harvard University, and the National Cancer Institute, among some others. Dr. Mark Hayward, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Population Health Initiative at University of Texas, wrote of her outstanding leadership and mentorship skills, stating "she is a remarkable leader, mentor and scientist...and is an institution builder", and "her scholarly reach extends far beyond her department and discipline". From Harvard, Dr. Walter Willet says "Dr. Forman has a deep and broad understanding in nutrition and human biology, and this has led her to undertake unique studies that have been ahead of her time". A colleague at the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Deborah Winn, noted her extensive experience in teaching undergraduate and graduate students and mentoring pre- and post-doctoral fellows at the National Cancer Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health (where she had an appointment while at NCI), and other institutions.

For these reasons, the committee was enthusiastically in favor of granting the Distinguished Professor title to Dr. Michelle Forman. We feel she is highly deserving of this recognition.

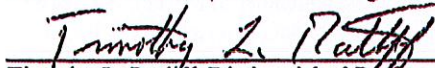
Sincerely,



Bruce Hamaker, Distinguished Professor of Food Science



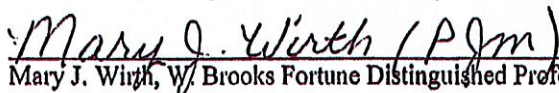
Kathleen C. Howell, Hsu Lo Distinguished Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics



Timothy I. Ratliff, Distinguished Professor, Comparative Pathobiology



Anne Smith, Distinguished Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences



Mary J. Wirth, W. Brooks Fortune Distinguished Professor — Analytical Chemistry