

June 21, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

With this letter, I wish to nominate Dr. Marion K. Underwood as a Distinguished Professor. I believe that her scholarship merits such a distinction. Her work is innovative, important, and impactful.

Until Dr. Underwood's work began, scholars focused primarily on physical aggression. Dr. Underwood was one of the first to recognize the importance of another type of aggression that was more prevalent in adolescence and potentially more frequently exercised by girls--social (or relational) aggression. Social aggression refers to purposeful acts undertaken in order to harm others by impacting their social relations and status; examples of social aggression include social exclusion and spreading rumors. Since Dr. Underwood elevated the profile of this often overlooked type of aggression, research has shown the ubiquity of this type of aggression, its elevated importance among girls, and its negative psychological consequences both in the short-term and the long-term. Because of Dr. Underwood, social aggression has become part of the pantheon of aggression subtypes, joining proactive, instrumental, and reactive aggression. More recently, Dr. Underwood took another innovative step and became one of the first to study this type of aggression as it plays out on various social media platforms.

Not only is her work been innovative and important, it is methodologically rigorous. Much of Dr. Underwood's work has been longitudinal in nature—following the same individuals across time. Most of the research involves multiple source assessments; Dr. Underwood's research employs self, peer-, parent-, and teacher reports in addition to behavioral observations. Her more recent research using social media has involved content coding thousands of social media posts. These studies are hard to do, but they yield data that are remarkably rich, and, unfortunately, relatively rare.

Despite the intensity of the data collections that Dr. Underwood undertakes, she has managed to be quite productive. She has published two books, over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, and almost 40 chapters. Her 2003 book, *Social Aggression Among Girls*, has been cited almost 900 times and is required reading for those interested in social aggression. Among her peer-reviewed articles, over 25% of them appear in top journals (i.e., top quartile of their fields). Dr. Underwood publishes regularly in the top developmental psychology journals: *Child Developmental* (3 articles; impact factor (IF) = 5.02), *Development & Psychopathology* (2 articles; IF = 3.59), *Journal of Abnormal Child psychology* (1 article; IF = 3.41), and *Developmental Psychology* (4 articles; IF = 3.34). She has also published in the flagship clinical psychology journals: *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* (1 article; IF = 5.52), *Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychology* (1 article; IF = 4.36), and *Psychological Assessment* (1 article; IF = 3.47). Dr. Underwood has even published in the top journal in the field of social psychology—*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (1 article; IF = 5.92). In total, according to Google Scholar, Dr. Underwood's work has been cited over 7,000 times.

Perhaps even more impressive than the publications is Dr. Underwood's history of grant funding. She has been funded by either the National Institute of Mental Health or the National Institute on Child Health and Development since 1995. As noted by Dr. Rose in her evaluation letter, this "...easily puts her [Dr. Underwood] in the top 5% of peer relations researchers in regards to external funding." This speaks to the importance and innovation inherent in Dr. Underwood's research.

Dr. Underwood's research has been recognized previously through her appointment as an Associate Editor at *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*, her election to fellow status in the American Psychological Society in 2005 and her

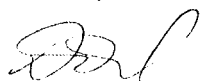
Distinguished Professor Nomination: M. K. Underwood

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receipt of the Ashbel Smith Professorship at the University of Texas at Dallas in 2008. Attesting to her international prominence and reputation, letters of support from five leading researchers accompany this letter. Dr. Karen L. Bierman is the Evan Pugh University Professor at Penn State University. Dr. William M. Bukowski is a Professor and Research Chair in Early Adolescent Development at Concordia University; Dr. John Coie is Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University. Dr. Gary Ladd is the Cowden Distinguished Professor in the Department of Psychology at Arizona State University. Finally, Dr. Amanda Rose is a Professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at University of Missouri-Columbia. Each letter writer strongly recommends Dr. Underwood's nomination as a Distinguished Professor.

Finally, I attach a copy of Dr. Underwood's vita. As you will see, she is truly deserving of this honor. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me via electronic mail at dlynam@purdue.edu or by phone at 765-496-9025.

Sincerely,

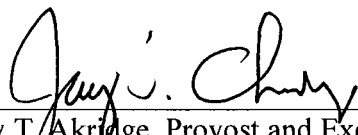


Donald R. Lynam, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences



David Rollock, Ph.D.
150th Anniversary Professor and Professor of Psychological Sciences Department Head

Approval Recommended:

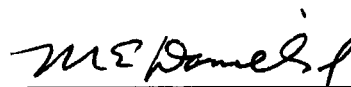


Jay T. Akridge, Provost and Executive
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

11/14/19

Date

Approved:



Mitchell E. Daniels., President

11/18/19

Date



Date: November 11, 2019

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

From: Ken Ferraro, Chair, University Distinguished Professor Evaluation Committee

Re: Nomination of Marion Underwood for Distinguished Professor

I write on behalf of the committee appointed to review the nomination of Marion Underwood for Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences at Purdue University. I served as chair of the committee that included Distinguished Professors Laurence Leonard (Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences), Richard Mattes (Nutrition Science), Robin Stryker (Sociology), and Jill Suitor (Sociology).

Our committee reviewed Professor Underwood's curriculum vitae, the nomination letter from Donald Lynam (Distinguished Professor of Psychological Sciences) and David Rollock (150th Anniversary Professor and Head of Psychological Sciences), and five letters from leading experts in Professor Underwood's field regarding the significance of her scholarly contributions. We also consulted Web of Science and Google Scholar for information about the scientific impact of Dr. Underwood's work. The committee voted unanimously on November 8, 2019 to support Professor Underwood's nomination.

In our judgment, Professor Underwood has an outstanding record of scholarly contributions in psychology and human development. The focus of her research is twofold: (a) the developmental origins of social aggression and (b) adolescents' use of digital communication. She earned a PhD in clinical psychology from Duke University in 1991 and is the author of two books, 51 refereed journal articles, and more than 30 book chapters. She has repeatedly published articles in prestigious outlets such as *Child Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Development & Psychopathology*, *Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychology*, *Aggressive Behavior*, and *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Dr. Underwood also has been principal investigator of eight research grants from the National Institutes of Health, totaling over \$6.4 million. Her scholarly record is all the more remarkable given the leadership positions she held at the University of Texas at Dallas since 2013. She is a fellow of the Association of Psychological Science.

Citations to her scholarly record appear in highly visible outlets such as *Psychological Bulletin*, *Journal of Adolescence*, *Journal of School Psychology*, *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*, *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, *Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology*, *Child Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, and *Social Development*. According to Google Scholar, there are more than 7,600 citations of her publications; 36 of her articles

have been cited at least 36 times. Dr. Underwood's 1997 article in *Developmental Psychology*, entitled A Developmental Investigation of Social Aggression among Children, is her most widely cited publication (1,204 citations per Google Scholar; 415 citations per Web of Science).

Each of the five external reviewers of Professor Underwood's stature as a psychologist remarked about the quality and significance of her research. For example, as Karen Bierman of Penn State University noted, "Dr. Underwood is an internationally-recognized scholar in the area of social-emotional development and peer relations." Gary Ladd of Arizona State University describes her as among "the top 1% of senior scientists who work in our discipline" (psychology). John Coie of Duke University refers to her research as a "ground breaking approach" for the study of aggressive behavior among girls. Amanda Rose of the University of Missouri also praised Professor Underwood for "the time and energy she dedicates to mentoring junior faculty."

Finally, we note that Dr. Underwood won the Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from the University of Texas at Dallas (2001).

Coupling our evaluation of her record with the comments offered by external reviewers, we conclude that Professor Underwood is an exceptional scholar whose exemplary contributions add to the stature of Purdue University.