

MEMO

TO: Jay Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity
FROM: Phillip J. VanFossen, Interim Dean, College of Education
RE: College of Education nominee for 150th Anniversary Professor
DATE: October 31, 2022

As you know, Dr. David Eichinger was the initial College of Education 150th Anniversary Professor. Dr. Eichinger retired earlier and so we were given permission to conduct a search to fill that position.

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Professor Jennifer Richardson as the College of Education nominee for our Purdue 150th Anniversary Professorship. Professor Richardson has a long and deep record of impactful teaching and of exemplary research into best practices in online/distance learning.

First, a note about our process. I sent out a call to the College on September 12 (see attached memo) with a deadline of October 7. The College leadership team reviewed and edited the 150th Anniversary Professor rubric (also attached) that was generously provided by the College of Agriculture. Once this rubric was finalized, I created a search committee of the following current or emeritus faculty:

- Hua Hua Chang, Charles R. Hicks Chair Professor, Professor of Statistics (Courtesy)
- David Eichinger, 150th Anniversary Professor emeritus
- Marilyn Hirth, Assoc. Professor, Educational Leadership
- Signe Kastberg, Mary Endres Chair of Elementary Education
- James Lehman (Chair), Professor emeritus and former Dept. Head (EDCI) and Assoc. Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs

Professor Lehman held a kick-off meeting via Zoom charging the committee with reviewing applicant portfolios (there were two) and assigning ratings using the rubric. A second Zoom meeting was held to discuss ratings and to agree on a recommended candidate. Given the nature of the position and its prestige, I did ask for a ranking based on committee ratings. I wanted simply to sanction the committee's recommendation, thus eliminating any perception of bias on my part.

Based on the committee's review, rating, and subsequent discussion, the committee unanimously ranked **Professor Jennifer Richardson** as the top candidate.

A faculty member at Purdue since 2002, Professor Richardson teaches in the Learning Design and Technology (LDT) program in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. She has a strong

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record of high impact teaching and learning activities. Among the strongest evidence of this impact is her recent selection as a member of Purdue's Teaching Academy. She has won numerous other Purdue honors including the Teaching Leadership Fellow Award and the Digital Education Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Nationally, she has been awarded the Wedemeyer Award for Outstanding Scholar in Distance Education [for distinguished contributions to the scholarship and practice of distance education (2022)]; the AECT Division of Distance Learning (DDL) Best Practice Award for *PoRTAL: Purdue Repository for Online Teaching and Learning* (2019); and the Online Learning Consortium Fellow Award (2016-2017).

She was also the inaugural Provost's Digital Education Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award winner (2017), and she has won Purdue's Digital and Professional Education award (2017); and the Curriculum & Instruction Outstanding Faculty Discovery Award, Scholarship of Teaching (2010).

Noteworthy is her application of research findings within her own online courses. This "theory-into-practice" approach informs her applied practices and helps to guide her further research. She has more than 10,000 citations--and an H-index of 41—in Google Scholar, evidence that her work is among the 'go to' resources in the field of online teaching and learning. She truly has developed a scholarship of teaching.

Her reputation for collaborating with graduate students (and sometimes not even her own!) is unparalleled in the College. She has co-presented with 71 different graduate students at national and international conferences—not 71 times, but with 71 different *people*--and she has published research with 63 different graduate students. Professor Richardson understands how to mentor, motivate, and guide her students. I would point you to the student letter (from Secil Caskurlu in her documents) for further evidence of her success in mentoring.

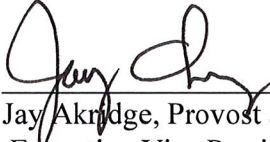
Professor Richardson has worked tirelessly during her career on the development and transformation of graduate curricula in LDT. Professor Richardson was instrumental in the development of our college's (actually, Purdue's) first fully online Master's program. This program was recently ranked #8 in the nation by *US News and World Report*. She also played a very important role in the more recently developed Curriculum and Instruction online master's program, which was recently ranked #14 in the nation by *US News*. In both programs, she developed courses, mentored other course designers, taught courses, and mentored adjunct instructors. Professor Richardson's expertise in online teaching and learning is evident with these accomplishments, as well as many others, including the creation of a new Corporate Training and Communication online program in collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts.

Finally, I would point to Professor Richardson's work with PoRTAL (*Purdue Repository for online Teaching and Learning*) as additional evidence of her wide-reaching impact on teaching and learning at Purdue, nationwide, and even worldwide. She continues to lead this innovative, interdisciplinary team as it develops online teaching resources, free and available to all who seek them out.

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Such selfless application of her knowledge coupled with innovative thinking is characteristic of Professor Richardson and why she is our nominee for the 150th Anniversary Professorship.

Approval Recommended:

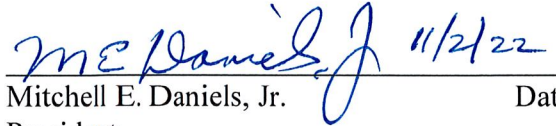


Jay Akridge, Provost and
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Diversity

11/1/22

Date

Approved:



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
President

Date