

Date: Oct. 21, 2007

To: Kevin P. Jansen, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Natural Sciences

From: Matthew J. Maurer, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Science Education

Re: Pre-Tenure Review of Melinda J. Kellogg, Ph.D.

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the pre-tenure review of Melinda J. Kellogg, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Physics. I believe her ongoing commitments to effective, student-centered teaching and scholarship both represent her dedication to help students develop and succeed academically.

Mindy has an exemplary background in physics from CalTech and MIT, permitting her to draw the ability to draw on these unique experiences to supplement her course material. While she is often a soft-spoken and quiet-natured individual, I believe her to be an effective communicator in dealing with students and faculty on campus. I have found her to be extremely knowledgeable in her subject area, and she has helped me to better understand concepts and experiments for my own courses where I have required someone with more expertise. I have also asked her to serve as a guest lecturer on astronomy during the Spring 2008 semester in my SCIE 320 course: *Earth and Space Science for the PreK-6 Teacher*.

Mindy possesses a wonderful attitude towards educating students here on campus. She consistently creates a rapport with students that sets high expectations but is unbiased, supportive, and nurturing. She seems to always be working with students during her office hour times, mainly because of her approachability and dedication to their academic success. Mindy describes herself as a very caring instructor. She genuinely likes her students and her courses, and meticulously prepares each day to deliver as effective of a learning experience as possible for her students.

Mindy has a strong desire to develop a major in Physics at the College, and she has begun to pursue avenues for grant-funded research projects (which will include students) to support a new Physics degree. Given the extremely competitive nature of research in the field of physics, these projects will provide numerous opportunities for students to carryout independent projects, present at conferences, and even work toward peer-review publications. Her interests in the use of lasers, magnetic fields, and quantum mechanics would provide opportunities for students to gain knowledge and expertise in a program that would be unmatched in this region.

Overall, it has been a great pleasure for me to work with Mindy over the last three years. She has served as a wonderful resource on numerous occasions. Given her record as a faculty member to this point, I fully support a positive outcome in her pre-tenure review process.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Maurer, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Science Education