

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES

April 4, 2018

Dear members of the University Senate,

I am honored to be considered for the F. Jay Taylor Undergraduate Teaching Award. I have taught undergraduate classes at Louisiana Tech for more than a decade now, having the privilege of teaching students from my own discipline as well as many others. I tell everyone that I have my dream job – and I do. I get to talk about news, arts, and communication with young, eager minds and have the opportunity to help them achieve their goals.

I truly believe learning is a lifelong discipline. I emphasize that concept in my classes because I want my students to incorporate it in their lives. One way I accomplish this is through service-learning projects and hands-on activities. For example, I taught COMM 440: Social Media, a new class, in the winter, and before I taught it, I wanted to incorporate Tech's mission into the classroom. Tech is committed to creative activity, public service, and a high quality of teaching. These are qualities I wanted to bring to the classroom. I sought assistance from others across the country who have taught social media, and my colleagues can attest to my excitement at planning and teaching this class and my others in the winter quarter. Every quarter I go into class looking to change and modify the curriculum; especially in my discipline, the technology uses and applications change rapidly, and I want to stay current in my teaching.

This past winter, I wanted my students to assist the community, and we did that through servicelearning projects. My COMM 440 students created a social media campaign for the National Integrated Cyber Education Research Center, which is part of the Cyber Innovation Center in Bossier City. The students worked in groups to develop a budget, a timeline, and quantifiable objectives for NICERC to implement for its social media work. Employees from the company expressed their overwhelming thankfulness for the project, already using some of the students' ideas and even offering an internship to one of the students.

We talk about the Tech family and the tenets of Tech, and those are elements I believe in, not just for the workplace but personally as well. I want to support my colleagues, to encourage innovation in our department, and to support our students as they matriculate through the program. I want the community to see what our university and our students and faculty can do to improve the lives of those around us. We have so much talent on campus, and it truly is a joy to be a part of something great.

Sincerely,

Judith P. Roberts, Ph.D. Assistant Professor Department of Communication and Media Studies

> Graduate Programs in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association

> > A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Department of Communication Disorders Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Department of Communication Studies Communication and Journalism

April 3, 2018

University Senate Louisiana Tech University RE: 2018 F. Jay Taylor Undergraduate Teaching Award

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Judith Roberts in recognition of her nomination for the 2018 F. Jay Taylor Undergraduate Teaching Award. As a colleague of Dr. Roberts since her service at Louisiana Tech began, I consider myself fortunate to work with an individual of her caliber. As her vita reveals her wide array of academic accomplishments, real-world employment experiences and published works, I would like to focus my recommendation on her extraordinary dedication to Louisiana Tech University, its students, and its faculty.

Dr. Roberts' instruction, research and service are all student-centered and focused on learning, making her one of the most sought-after professors in the Department. She is always willing to accept and embrace new ideas, new curriculum or a new course. We recently restructured the curriculum for our Department, necessitating a change in instructional assignments and development of new courses. Not only did Dr. Roberts take on this responsibility enthusiastically, she designed courses that are innovative and demonstrate current theory and application in the field of communication. She also found a way to take an introductory/survey course and make it interesting and exciting, moving it to one of our most popular courses for both majors and non-majors.

Dr. Roberts is an outstanding advisor. Many of our majors have specifically requested her to serve as their advisor, based not only on the guidance she provides them, but also because of her genuine interest in the students' well-being. She closely monitors her advisees' curriculum program as well as their ability to apply what they learn in the classroom and in their future work lives. Dr. Roberts' students are comfortable approaching her about assignments, presentations, and advising. She is a dedicated instructor whose purpose is to guide and teach students.

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC ACCREDITATION OF THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE HEARING ASSOCIATION The passion she brings to her classroom is second to none in our department. She challenges students and provides opportunities for academic and personal growth. For example, she taught two courses this year with a heavy emphasis on service learning. In one of these courses, COMM 450, Public Relations Campaigns, groups of students presented a variety of possibilities to the Buddy Ball organization, to assist them in increasing membership and community involvement through their online presence. Under the guidance of Dr. Roberts, not only were the campaigns professionally developed and presented, but were gratefully acknowledged by the Buddy Ball organization as the most meaningful and beneficial assistance they have received since the beginning of their organization. Providing these service learning opportunities gave these students an opportunity to understand the value of giving back. Both the students and the organizational recipients gained a valuable learning experience through this innovative service learning project developed by Dr. Roberts.

I have seen first-hand the collegiality Dr. Roberts brings to our Department, College and University. She is selfless in her willingness to assist students and faculty. She offers professional insight that helps us all become better instructors. I believe she has a much better understanding of the millennial generation than most, providing instruction and guidance to help these students better consider options, deal with social media in effective ways, and apply their acquired knowledge and skills in the very complex world they are about to enter.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Dr. Roberts for the F. Jay Taylor Undergraduate Teaching Award. She demonstrates the Tenets of Tech on a daily basis, and through her character and collegiality, is most deserving of this award. Please contact me if you require further information regarding this recommendation. I will be happy to discuss Dr. Roberts' qualifications for this honor.

Sincerely,

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Brenda L. Heiman, Ph.D. Director, School of Communication J. Roberts' Class list, enrollment, and retention rate

WINTER 2018

COMM 103: Intro to Public Relations Enrollment: 25; Retention: 25/25 COMM 400: Media Law and Ethics (online) Enrollment: 20; Retention: 17/20 COMM 440: Social Media Enrollment: 27; Retention: 26/27 COMM 499: Internship in Journalism Enrollment: 1; Retention: 1/1

SPRING 2017

COMM 202: Media Literacy (online) Enrollment: 20; Retention: 20/20 COMM 202: Media Literacy Enrollment: 25; Retention: 24/25 JOUR 420: Civic Journalism Enrollment: 14; Retention: 13/14 JOUR 499: Advanced Practical Reporting Enrollment: 2; Retention 2/2

FALL 2017

COMM 100: Intro to Mass Media Enrollment: 25; Retention: 19/25 COMM 202: Media Literacy (online) Enrollment: 25; Retention: 24/25 COMM 311: Copy Editing Enrollment: 6; Retention: 6/6 COMM 499: Internship in Journalism Enrollment: 3; Retention: 3/

Other classes taught at Louisiana Tech

Introduction to News Writing Introduction to Feature Writing People and Events (Column Writing) Practical Reporting Special Problems in Journalism Literary Journalism

Research/work so far this academic year

-- "The Lord Has Sounded the TRUMP-ets'; What do you say to young Christians?" Research regarding politics and religion intertwining in the recent presidential election was printed in the book "Constructing Narratives in Response to Trump's Election"

-- Presenting service-learning project research at the University of Louisiana System Summit on April 20 in New Orleans

-- Part of grant team that received \$27,940.73 from the Student Technology Fee Board for research equipment for the department

-- Produced the 2018 yearbook to be delivered May 2018

Winter Student Evaluations

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