

Lafayette College Distinguished Service Award

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Nomination Form (2016)

Nominator: Michelle Geoffrion-Vinci, Clara Valdano López, and Katie Stafford

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Nominee: Mary Toulouse

Title of Nominee: Director of FLL Resource Center and Visiting Instructor of French

Division: Foreign Languages and Literatures

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1. Describe how the nominee has contributed significantly to supporting and sustaining their department or office, other departments or offices:

Comment Mary Toulouse is essential to the Foreign Languages and Literatures department and one of the primary reasons we have so many flourishing language programs. She is the driving force behind our vibrant and active Language Resource Center where students and faculty are constantly engaging in new and innovative projects such as imovies, e-portfolios, blogging, and mapping, all for the purpose of promoting intercultural and communicative competency and engagement with our multicultural and multilingual world. She is responsible for bringing the e-portfolio project to the Lafayette campus. The fact that more than 90% of our students are engaged in making e-portfolios of their work and applying for badges as evidence of their linguistic and intercultural competency is thanks to Mary's hardwork, passion, and dedication. She organizes many events to promote exemplary teaching of languages, literatures and cultures. She works tirelessly to help faculty and students with new technologies and

pedagogical strategies. If you go to the fourth floor of Pardee, you will find posters and comic strips in many languages exhibiting concepts and ideas from multiple cultures, students recording their speaking in a different language, and/or talking to someone on skype from a different country, students working on their blogs, and advertisements regarding a conference and/or talk on campus regarding using technology in the classroom. This is all thanks to Mary.

2. Describe how the nominee has contributed significantly to supporting and sustaining the College as a whole:

Comment Mary Toulouse has contributed to Lafayette College as a whole through the development of technological resources that help foster students' knowledge. She also arranges workshops, conferences, presentations, and film festivals that invite the participation of various departments and programs. For instance, Mary has hosted Francophone film festivals several times, as well as workshops on the use of LaFolio (E-portfolios). She also organizes and orchestrates the CanDos (the assessment goals of the FLL department), strategies for teaching and assessment, and talks on Literatures and Languages. LaFolio (E-portfolios) is a tool that makes it possible for professors to work in an interdisciplinary and holistic way. The Lafolio allows students to archive their work, receive feedback, and assess their own learning progress by creating their own personal website dedicated to their academic and personal goals, experiences, and projects completed during their time at Lafayette College. Rather than basing assessment solely on traditional exams or papers, the E-Portfolio showcases what students can actually *do* with a language. Students can also apply for digital badges that mark their accomplishments over the course of their studies at Lafayette College. Thanks to LaFolio, professors can work with students across disciplines, and the Attic and career center have also benefitted from this successful resource. Mary has conducted workshops with Career Services and various members of the academic support staff (ATTIC, Tutoring support of Athletes) in Scott Hall, and she has engaged diverse members of our faculty beyond FLL (engineering, the Writing Program, Africana Studies) in order to familiarize them with our e-portfolio and badge program, a digital "ecosystem" that allows our students to creatively and holistically tell the story of their intellectual and personal developmental journey using far richer evidence than simple tests and essays. Indeed, Mary is a tireless champion of inclusive teaching and learning, or rather creating a learning environment in which all students -- those with learning or physical disabilities, students who come from non-traditional starting points [first generation college students, students whose first language is something other than English, etc.]), and those whose

developmental journeys are for whatever reason more complicated, complex or challenging than those of other members of our community.

Thanks to Mary, Lafayette College has even been a leader in the use of LaFolio. She gives presentations and workshop on e-portfolio and badge creation and implementation at regional and national conferences, most recently the New England Association of Language Learning Technologies (NEALLT) but also the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL). Colleges and universities around the country- among them Yale and Cornell - seek her input in developing their own e-portfolio programs. She is also the faculty advisor to LET'S, the student group whose mission is to erase the stigma surrounding mental illness. Mary and Michelle Geoffrion-Vinci also co-authored the article "Of Proficiency, Prochievement and (e)Portfolios: A Blue Print for Deep Language-Learning and Assessment," which was published in the *Bulletin of the Association for Departments of Foreign Languages*. Finally, Mary also processes the data for the CanDos assessment, the assessment tool for the FLL department, which gives Lafayette College important information for its accreditation. This information that Mary provides and processes is key for the FLL Department and Lafayette College as a whole.

3. Describe the nominee's working relationship with faculty, students, and/or staff:

Comment Mary is always willing to facilitate and help with workshops for students and professors, talks, technological resources, and any event that would involve the Foreign Language Resource Center and promote learning of other languages, literatures and cultures on the Lafayette campus. She is extremely collegial and supportive with professors and students. For instance, the faculty of the Foreign Languages and Literatures department is constantly asking her for last minute help and organization, and she gives tirelessly to their projects. She also is quite instrumental in mentoring many of the international students on campus who work in the lab. Many say that working in the lab is a significant part of their Lafayette experience. Mary is extremely helpful, collaborative, supportive, and efficient. Thanks to Mary the FLL department has reached a high level of productivity and innovation, of which Lafayette can be proud.

4. Describe how Lafayette is a better place because the nominee is here:

Comment Mary Toulouse has brought to Lafayette College technological resources that are extremely helpful in fostering students' knowledge in an up-to-date, creative, and very effective way. Mary's professionalism, knowledge, willingness to help, kindness, and flexibility are proof of Lafayette College's achievements, and make Lafayette a leading institution in undergraduate modern education. Mary has contributed enormously to Lafayette College with ideas, resources, time, energy and enthusiasm that are very inspiring.

On a separate sheet, you may provide a brief summary of the nominee's qualifications for the award. Add any other information you feel is pertinent to your nomination. Please provide specific examples and accomplishments that accurately highlight positive actions demonstrated by the nominee.

Director, Foreign Languages & Literatures Resource Center

- Researches, purchases, maintains all computer-mediated language/culture-learning technologies for the FLL Dept. and trains faculty and students in their use and in their relevance to our shared work
- Manages FLLRC budget, hires, trains, and maintains schedule of student laboratory proctors and student technology mentors
- Director of FLL Dept.'s GILS (Guided Independent Language Study) Arabic program
- Primary author of the successful grant proposal to the French Ministry of Culture that has resulted in a campus/community-wide French film festival from 2010-2012.
- Directs workshops for faculty and students in FLL and other departments in use of technologies for global and multicultural teaching and learning such as LaFolio (see above)
- Coordinates student tutors for languages class held at FLL Department.

Please check this box if you do not wish to be identified to the recipient.