

SKIDMORE

C O L L E G E

26 May 2017

I am very pleased to recommend Mary Toulouse for the ACTFL/Faculty Development Programs of Cengage Learning Award for Excellence in Foreign Language Instruction Using Technology. I have known Mary as a respected colleague in language learning technology for many years and value her solid and consistent contributions to the field. In addition to her ongoing work over the years to master and promote the use of technology in language learning and her excellent contributions in language center development, I would like to highlight her groundbreaking work on developing and implementing an exemplary e-portfolio project at Lafayette College.

It was my pleasure to serve as an external reviewer for the e-portfolio initiative at Lafayette, which gave me the opportunity to follow the project from its inception and witness its development over time as a model of best practices for our field. Mary and her colleagues at Lafayette have done substantial work over the years to build an e-portfolio platform that is directly tied to ACTFL standards and incorporates intercultural goals along with language proficiency development in a very holistic and motivational learning artifact that serves their students beyond their college years. Mary has done a tremendous job of disseminating the e-portfolio project widely at national and regional conferences. I have shared with my own faculty the Lafayette model, which has served as an example for us to follow in developing portfolio assessment for some of our programs at Skidmore College.

I know that Mary is very highly respected by her colleagues at Lafayette College and have seen the results of her leadership in integrating technology into the language and culture curriculum over the course of my visits to Lafayette, both in the context of my role as external reviewer and to attend a conference of NEALLT (Northeast Association for Language Learning Technology) that she hosted several years ago. Mary regularly exhibits student technology projects from language, culture, and literature courses in the Language Center, celebrating the achievements of the department and creating an environment that promotes interest and engagement in creative uses of technology.

I cannot think of a colleague in the field of language learning technology and language center direction who is more deserving of this honor for excellence in the field. I wholeheartedly support this nomination and am happy to provide any further information that might be helpful in the evaluation of Mary Toulouse for the ACTFL award.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Evans

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