THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

University of Michigan-Flint
School of Education and Human Services
Department of Education

Judith C. Ableser, assistant professor of education, Department of Education, School of Education and
Human Services, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of education, with tenure,
Department of Education, School of Education and Human Services.

Academic Degrees

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<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Wayne State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.A.</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>University of Toronto/Ontario, Canada</td>
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<td>B.A.Sc.</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>University of Guelph</td>
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Professional Record

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Position and Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>2004 to present</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Education Department, University of Michigan-Flint</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000 to 2004</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, University of Windsor, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996 to 2000</td>
<td>Lecturer/Supervisor, Wayne State University</td>
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Summary of Evaluation

Teaching – Since her arrival at the University of Michigan-Flint, Professor Ableser has taught a total
of seven different courses for a total of thirty-seven sections, including twelve sections of
undergraduate courses, twenty-four sections of graduate courses, and one independent study course. In
every course she has taught, student evaluations have not fallen below the highest ranking. Student
evaluators have commended on her impressive knowledge of her subject and her genuine love of
teaching. Faculty colleagues who have observed her classes have been similarly impressed by her
subject knowledge. They note that she is extremely well-organized, provides interesting presentations,
fosters constructive interaction, and models excellent teaching techniques.

Research – Professor Ableser’s research interests are situated throughout the field of special education.
She has ten publications in print, eight of which are in refereed journals and one chapter in a book.
Professor Ableser has received four significant grants: Research Excellent Grant, Summer Teaching
Fellowship, Research Initiatives Fellowship, and an International Travel Award. Professor Ableser has
also successfully developed and implemented the Young Authors’ Program. She has published two
articles on the Young Authors and presented at numerous conferences on the topic.

Recent and Significant Publications

Book Chapter:
143-161.
Journal Articles:
Ableser, Judith. “Integrating Developmentally Appropriate Authentic Literacy Experiences To Teach and Support Young Children During Times of Violence and Stress,” (accepted in Young Children for Winter 2008).

Selected Conference Presentations:
“Inclusive Young Authors’ Program,” Annual NCTE 2005 Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, November 2005.
“Empowering Student Writers: Celebrating Young Authors,” Annual Association for Childhood Education International Conference, March 23-26, 2005, Washington D.C.

Service – Since her arrival in 2004, Professor Ableser has served on six committees within the Education Department, one committee within the School, and one university-wide committee. Professor Ableser is currently the Governing Faculty Secretary for the School. During her tenure at the University of Michigan-Flint one of Professor Ableser’s main contributions has been the development and implementation of the Master’s Program in Special Education.
External Reviewers

Reviewer (A):
“Dr. Ableser appears to have been able to develop the new master’s program while maintaining her teaching and research duties as well. Of note, Dr. Ableser has served as the lone advisor to 150 special education graduate students. This is a very demanding task and shows her commitment to mentoring future special educators. It is clear that Dr. Ableser seeks to promote the well-being of individuals with special needs and her research efforts have addressed and the need for interventions to support students with disabilities. Dr. Ableser has done an exemplary job of engaging with local school districts in developing her research interests and such collaboration is an important aspect of the research and professional development work described in the University’s Standards and Criteria for Promotion and Tenure.”

Reviewer (B):
“I found it especially refreshing and purposeful that Dr. Ableser was able to address the vast audience of early childhood educators (ranging from teachers without any type of formal education to teachers who hold a M.Ed in Early Childhood Education) in regards to research and meaningful practical ‘theory into practice’ applications. I plan to use Dr. Ableser’s article in my own courses, as it is an outstanding collection of research and strategies for educators.”

Reviewer (C):
“I am especially impressed with Dr. Ableser’s research on an instructional concept commonly referred to as Young Author’s Conferences. Dr. Ableser continues a scholarly tradition that got its start here in Michigan four decades ago under the aegis of Dr. Harry Hahn. Dr. Ableser’s scholarly work translates well into effective strategies for teaching literacy to children. She is a capable scholar and will, I suspect, continue to make scholarly and professional contributions in the future.”

Reviewer (D):
“Using a case study approach, Dr. Ableser has begun to document how families of children with special needs can work in partnership with teachers and schools. She will share some of her results later this month at a national conference that has an acceptance rate of only 35%, providing a good indication of the value that the field places on her contribution. From my perspective, I found her suggestions about how a community’s composition can influence the success of such programs to be especially interesting, and I hope that she will find time to pursue this avenue.”

Reviewer (E):
“As Dr. Ableser stated in her philosophy statement and narrative, she has meshed the three areas of research, professional development, and service. In doing so, she has clearly put her energies toward research and professional development that serve the university, her profession, and the community. Her additional committee work, publications, presentations, and continued line of research provide additional evidence of her commitment to the university and her field.”

Reviewer (F):
“Dr. Ableser’s work is substantial and has a clear focus of sense of purpose. Throughout all of the materials that I reviewed, several exemplary characteristics stand out. First, everything that Dr. Ableser does is deeply connected to the philosophy she spells out in her promotional and tenure materials – a commitment to constructivism using a developmental and ecological framework. It exemplifies what it means to deeply respect and support children’s diverse needs and promote their learning. It reveals a comprehensive understanding of how current trends in education – for instance prescribed curriculum and high stakes testing undermine this approach – can work against the
wellbeing of children and their development and learning. What’s more, and perhaps more impressive to me, Dr. Ableser’s work points the way to how, in these challenging times, we can be true to our principles within the current constraints.”

Summary of Recommendation – Professor Ableser has established a strong record of achievement in the areas of teaching, scholarship and service. It is with the unanimous support of the Department of Education and the Executive Committee of the School of Education and Human Services that we recommend Judith C. Ableser for promotion to associate professor of education, with tenure, Department of Education, School of Education and Human Services.

Recommended by:

\[Signature\]
Susanne Chandler, Dean
School of Education and Human Services

Recommendation endorsed by:

\[Signature\]
Vahid Lotfi, Interim Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

\[Signature\]
Jack Kay, Interim Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2008