



ST. BONAVENTURE

UNIVERSITY

September 10, 2013

I am writing this letter in support of Kimberly DeSimone's application for tenure at St. Bonaventure University. I have had the pleasure of communicating with Kimberly about her teaching on a frequent basis as well as observing her teach Digital Portfolio and Career Readiness in the school of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Professor DeSimone utilized many strategies that are considered best practices in teaching, such as activating background knowledge, reviewing vocabulary and scaffolding new learning. Even though I observed her very early in the semester, she reviewed the progress of the class so far, synthesizing what student progress had been made on their projects so far. This provided students with a review of course content and set the stage for the next steps of instruction, both critical features of scaffolding instruction which is crucial for bringing learners to the end result of learning new information and synthesizing it into prior knowledge.

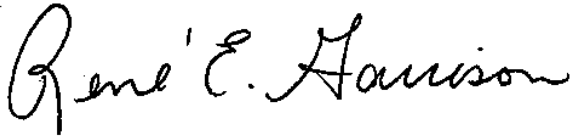
She encourages and facilitates class discussion through asking students targeted questions about content and further challenges them to relate what they are learning to real-life situations that they experience now and can foresee in their futures. Students respond to her instructional approach by engaging readily in class discussion and small group activities.

It is very clear from being in Professor DeSimone's classroom that she "knows her stuff". She provides clear examples of concepts and related them to the students on a level they can clearly understand. She uses current resources available and helps students to expand their knowledge base by anchoring what they are learning about the digital world in appropriate content relevant theory.

In addition, she has very strong interpersonal skills and great rapport with her students. Students seem very comfortable in her classroom. They ask insightful questions and offer thoughtful comments.

In closing, I offer very strong support for Professor DeSimone's application for tenure. She is thoughtful and reflective in her approach to instruction and actively engages her students in the entirety of the learning process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rene' E. Garrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a distinct 'E'.

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