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

Suzanne M. Knezek, 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>2007</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.A.</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
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Professional Record:

2007 – Present  Assistant Professor of Education, University of Michigan-Flint
2006 – 2007    Lecturer cum Assistant Professor of Education, University of Michigan-Flint
2003 – 2006    Lead Teaching Assistant, Children’s Literature Team, Michigan State University
2004           Research Associate, College of Human Ecology, Michigan State University
1999 – 2003    Research Associate, Center for the Improvement in Reading Achievement (CIERA), Michigan State University
2000 – 2006    Instructor, Michigan State University
1999 – 2001    Research Associate, College of Education, Michigan State University
1999           Author/Curriculum Consultant, The Denali Project, Okemos, Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching — Since arriving at the University of Michigan-Flint, Professor Knezek has taught 13 different undergraduate and graduate courses in literacy education, and she was instrumental in expanding the course offerings in literacy and children’s literature as a part of the elementary education program. She has also made significant contributions to the development of our community-based Reading Center.

Research and Professional Development;

Professor Knezek’s research interests are centered in literacy education as it pertains to teacher preparation in general, and in children’s literature, more specifically. She has authored and co-authored four peer reviewed articles, with one in press, and two in preparation. She has presented or co-presented at 17 national conferences.
Summary of Recent and Significant Publications and Presentations:

Publications


Presentations


Knezeck, S. M. and VanHove, L. (March, 2010). “Grassroots and Pre-service Literacy Teachers: A New Approach to Field Experiences.” Presentation given at the annual meeting of the Michigan Reading Association (MRA), Detroit, MI.


Knezek, S. M., Crisp, T. and Apol, L. (November, 2008). “Reading Beyond Themselves: Preservice Teacher Response to multicultural Texts.” Presentation given at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), San Antonio, TX.


Service—Since 2007, Professor Knezek has served on 25 different committees within the university, the school, the Department of Education, and the local, regional, and state community. She is a member of the University of Michigan-Flint Diversity Committee, a position she has held twice in the last six years. Professor Knezek is very active in the local community with service activities which revolve around literacy education, and children’s literature in the local school districts.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Dr. Knezek has focused her research and professional development work on the three areas: issues of diversity, critical responses to text, and a Collaborative Model of Field Experience. Her areas of research stem from her experiences as a teacher. Others have, to some degree, undertaken work in her area of interest. Dr. Knezek looks, however, at these problems through a new lens; doing so, she raises important and often overlooked points. In addition, and importantly, she provides suggestions and a refreshing framework to investigate these issues further.”

Reviewer (B)

“The third piece published in the state-level chapter of the Association of Teacher Educators does demonstrate more significant scholarship as it contains a theoretical framework, demonstrates use of appropriate methods of inquiry, and makes appropriate assertions based on this data.”
Reviewer (C)
“Dr. Knezek has distinguished herself as a scholar. ... Her research has a clear focus on critical pedagogy, reader response to young adult literature, and critical perspectives in literacy teacher education. ... This body of work demonstrates that Dr. Knezek has distinguished herself as a scholar and shows evidence that she will continue to contribute at a high level of scholarship.”

Reviewer (D)
“Of particular interest to me was her discussion of how teacher candidates typically do not question authority and power roles as they read text, and how she structures her work to explore the whys and wherefores of such relationships with the now adult learners who are beginning teachers of reading, through exploring their personal stories.”

Reviewer (E)
“Concerning research and professional development, I feel Dr. Knezek has established herself as a serious and competent researcher along several lines of inquiry. ... She has pursued a line of inquiry with an expanded paradigm of what multicultural/diverse children’s literature really is and she has done significant research on gender and the roles of LGBTQ representations in adolescent literature.”

Summary Recommendation:

Professor Knezek has established a strong record of achievement in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. It is with the support of the Department of Education and the Executive Committee of the School of Education and Human Services that we enthusiastically recommend Suzanne M. Knezek for promotion to associate professor of education, with tenure, Department of Education, School of Education and Human Services.

Recommended by:

Robert W. Barnett, Interim Dean
School of Education and Human Services

Recommendation endorsed by:

Gerard Voland, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Ruth J. Person, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2013