

May 17, 2007

**PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION****The University of Michigan-Dearborn  
School of Education**

Julie A. Taylor, assistant professor of education, School of Education, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of education, with tenure, School of Education.

**Academic Degrees:**

Ph.D.	2002	University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, History
M.A.	1994	Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York, Religion
B.A.	1992	University of California, Santa Barbara, California, Religious Studies

**Professional Record:**

2002 to present	Assistant Professor, School of Education, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, Michigan
1997 to 1998	Supervisor, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
1991 to 1995	English Tutor and Teacher, the Upward Bound Program, Santa Barbara, California, New York, and Los Angeles

**Summary of Evaluation:**

**Teaching:** Professor Taylor's teaching is rated excellent. She is a creative and inspirational teacher who has clearly demonstrated her competency and effectiveness as an instructor. She has taught two different undergraduate courses and two different graduate courses. She has also supervised interns enrolled in the practica associated with her methods courses. Professor Taylor supervised numerous independent study projects, actively participated in the MITTEN project, a large scale grant within the School of Education, and revised the Social Studies methods courses within the School of Education in order to improve the students' test scores on State of Michigan assessments that lead to their teacher certification. Professor Taylor's course evaluations are routinely in the upper quartile for both the instructor and the course content, and clearly reflect her skill and excellence in teaching. Students within the School of Education have consistently rated Professor Taylor as an excellent instructor, and frequently comment that not only is she one of their favorite instructors, or the best instructor they have ever taken, but they praise her for her knowledge, insight, and utility of her course material for their future teaching experiences. Peer reviewers of her teaching consistently comment on the innovative and engaging strategies that she uses to motivate and inspire her students. Undoubtedly, Professor Taylor has left her mark on the students who enroll in her courses. They consistently praise her, her expertise, her knowledge, her intelligence, and her ability to inspire and teach. Her dedication and commitment to our students and the School of Education cannot be understated.

**Research:** Professor Taylor's research is rated excellent. She has demonstrated excellence in her field by applying her interest and knowledge in history and culture to teacher education. Her book, *Muslims in Medieval Italy: The Colony at Lucera*, is regarded as a major contribution to the field of medieval Italian history and a well written and highly original piece of work that debunks the popular myth of a black and white medieval world that is informed by religious and civilization conflicts. Professor Taylor's articles have appeared in a variety of high-quality,

refereed journals in history and education. She has collaborated with faculty in education and shared her expertise to write and publish articles that demonstrate the application of historical events and concepts to education. Her colleagues in the field and the School of Education agree that she holds great potential for future contributions and will continue to make impressive contributions to her discipline.

### **Recent and Significant Publications:**

- Taylor, J. A., *Muslims in Medieval Italy: The Colony at Lucera*. Lanham: Lexington Books. (2003) The first paperback edition was issued in 2005.
- Taylor, J. A., Muslim-Christian relations in medieval southern Italy. *The Muslim World*. (in press)
- Taylor, J. A., & Trepanier-Street, M., Civic education in multicultural contexts: New findings from a national study. *The Social Studies*. (in press)
- Taylor, J. A., Freedom and bondage among Muslims in Southern Italy during the Middle Ages. *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*. (in press)
- Adler, M., Trepanier-Street, M., & Taylor, J.A., Impact of a mentoring experience on college students' beliefs about early child development. *Early Childhood Education*. (in press)
- Taylor, J. A., & Duran, M., Teaching social studies with technology: New research on collaborative approaches. *The History Teacher*. (2006)
- Taylor, J. A., Supporting English language learners in social studies classrooms. *Michigan Social Studies Journal*, pp. 4-6. (2006)
- Taylor, J. A., Poverty and student achievement. *Multicultural Education*. 12(4) pp. 53-55. (2005)
- Taylor, J. A., Teaching history at America's #1 high school. *The History Teacher*. 37(4), pp. 517-531. (2004)
- Taylor, J. A., Teaching children who have immigrated: The new legislation, research, and trends in immigration which affect teachers of diverse student populations. *Multicultural Education*. 11 (3), pp. 43-44. (2004)
- Republished in *Annual Editions: Multicultural Education 05/06*. Ed. Fred Schultz. Dubuque: McGraw-Hill, 2006, pp. 204-205.

**Service:** Professor Taylor's service to the School of Education, the University, and in her profession is rated excellent and has been characterized by the kind of engagement and collaboration that maximize the value of this important element of faculty work. Professor Taylor spearheaded an extensive analysis and revision of the social studies endorsement program that has resulted in marked improvement in the passage rate of University of Michigan-Dearborn students on state-administered certification tests. She participated energetically in an important School of Education task force that implemented the recommendations of a campus-wide academic integrity committee into a fair and workable policy regarding student violations of academic codes.

### **External Reviewers:**

Reviewer (A)

"The quality of Dr. Taylor's scholarship is excellent. While Dr. Taylor's book is of the highest academic standard, it is her education scholarship that will be more valuable. Multicultural studies and the integration of technology are cutting edge areas of research."

Reviewer (B)

"The quality that Dr. Taylor has exhibited ... is above that of her peers and shows much promise. Dr. Taylor does not merely describe facts but thoroughly explains her topic. These are high levels of accomplishment for someone at such an early point in her career."

Reviewer (C)

"[Dr. Taylor's] work is quite strong and impressive. It is both detailed and broad and it represents attention to, and makes insightful connections among, theory and practice, history and contemporary issues in education."

Reviewer (D)

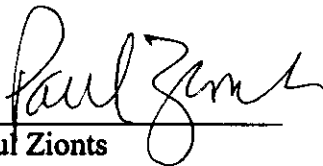
"What strikes me as particularly significant is her deep understanding and sensitivity to issues of cross-culture... she successfully bridges her work as a historian of high merit and an educator. Very rarely do we find in the academy a scholar with such a broad repertoire of interest and master..."

Reviewer (E)

"I especially value how Dr. Taylor has chosen to be an engaged scholar who is using her academic skills to the benefit of students from marginalized communities... she is an excellent role model... commend Dr. Taylor for her outstanding work as a global educator. She is one of a handful of scholars...who have achieved this level of accomplishment in scholarship in Islamic history and educational equity."

**Summary of Recommendations:**

Professor Taylor is an excellent teacher and a valuable member of the School of Education. Her scholarship is considered excellent, timely and cutting-edge, nationwide, and informs her teaching. Her service to the School, University, and community is excellent and has provided the campus with valuable support and her students with valuable experiences in the community. We are very pleased to recommend, with the strong support of the School of Education Executive Committee, Julie A. Taylor for promotion to associate professor of education, with tenure, School of Education.



Paul Zions  
Dean  
School of Education



Daniel Little  
Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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