

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

Ph.D.	2002	Wayne State University
M.A.	1982	University of Toronto/Ontario, Canada
B.A.Sc.	1980	University of Guelph

Professional Record

2004 to present	Assistant Professor, Education Department, University of Michigan-Flint
2000 to 2004	Assistant Professor, University of Windsor, Canada
1996 to 2000	Lecturer/Supervisor, Wayne State University

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 commented 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:*

Ableser, Judith. "Life Beyond Multiple Choice Tests: Alternative and Authentic Assessment," chapter in *Teaching, Learning, Assessing*. Kara Smith ed., Mosaic Press: Toronto, 2007, pp. 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).
- Ableser, Judith. "Celebrating All Young Authors: YAP Rejoicing," *Michigan Reading Journal*, v 39, 1 Fall 2006, pp. 24-27.
- Ableser, Judith. "Mismatched Curriculum: One-Size Does Not Fit All," *Curriculum and Teaching*, v 20,2, 2005.
- Ableser, Judith. "Y.A.P. Revisited: Empowering All Young Authors," *Michigan Reading Journal*, v 37, n.2, Winter 2005, pp. 35-39.
- Ableser, Judith. "Elementary School Teachers' Attitudes, Perceptions and Practices Towards the Implementation of a Non-Violence Curriculum: Second Step," *Journal of School Violence*, 2(4), 2003, pp. 81-100.
- Ableser, Judith. "Equal Educational Opportunity, Zero Tolerance and IDEA 97," *ERIC: Urban Education*.

*Selected Conference Presentations:*

- "Dichotomy or Alignment: Addressing Accountability and Special Education Teacher Shortage," Council for Exceptional Children: Teacher Education National Conference, San Diego, November 8-11, 2006.
- "Empowering All Young Authors: Supporting Students with Special Needs," Fourth Annual Hawaii International Education Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, January 6-9, 2006.
- "Inclusive Young Authors' Program," Annual NCTE 2005 Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, November 2005.
- "Inclusive Young Authors' Program," Annual Early Literacy Conference, Genesee Intermediate School District, Flint, MI, October 15, 2005.
- "Empowering Student Writers: Celebrating Young Authors," Annual Association for Childhood Education International Conference, March 23-26, 2005, Washington D.C.
- "Using Authentic Literacy Experiences During Times of Crisis and Stress," 2004 MDAEYC Conference, Troy, Michigan, October 16, 2004.
- "Integrating a Language Arts Framework To Teach and Support Children Through Violent and Stressful Times," 2004 Annual Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, New Orleans, Louisiana, March, 2004.
- "Is It Just Another Flavor of the Month? Elementary School Teachers' Attitudes, Perceptions and Practices Towards Non-Violence Curriculum: Second Step," Hawaii International Education Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, January, 2003.
- "Supporting Children Through Violent and Stressful Times," Children's Mental Health Conference, Oakland County, Michigan, November 2002; and 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Plymouth/Canton Schools Conference, Plymouth, Michigan, October 2002.
- "Zero Tolerance and Equal Educational Opportunities – Not," National Conference on Alternatives to Expulsion, Suspension and Dropping Out of School, Orlando, Florida, January, 2002.

**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 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."

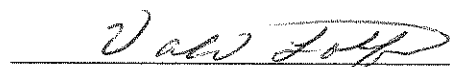
Summary of Recommendation – Professor Ableser has established a strong record of achievement in the areas of teaching, scholarship and service. It is with the unanimous support of the Department of Education and the Executive Committee of the School of Education and Human Services that we recommend Judith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

Recommended by:



Susanne Chandler, Dean  
School of Education and Human Services

Recommendation endorsed by:



Vahid Lotfi, Interim Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Jack Kay, Interim Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

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