

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:

Ph.D.	2007	Michigan State University
M.A.	1999	Michigan State University
B.S.	1998	Michigan State University

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 – 2000	Research Consultant, Ingham Intermediate School District, Lansing, Michigan
1999	Author/Curriculum Consultant, The Denali Project, Okemos, Michigan
1995 – 1999	Curriculum Specialist, Invest Learning Educational Software Company, East Lansing, Michigan
1988 – 1995	Teacher, Seymour Elementary School, Seymour Independent School District, Seymour, Texas

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

- Knezek, S. M. (in press). "Why Does She Hear the Heartbeat?": Helping Preservice Teachers Question Power and Gender in Children's Literature. *WILLA: A Journal of the Women in Literacy and Life Assembly of the National Council of Teachers of English*.
- Knezek, S. M. (2012). "Preservice Teacher Field Experiences in Reading: A Collaborative Model." *Issues in Education: Preschool through Graduate School*. 3(1). Available: <http://michiganate.com/onlinejournal.htm>.
- Crisp, T. B. and Knezek, S. M. (2010). "I Just Don't See Myself Here": Challenging Conversations About LGBTQ Adolescent Literature. *The English Journal*. 99(3), 76-79.
- Knezek, S. M. (2008). "A Brain is a House For Thoughts!": The Importance of Students in the Self-Assessment Process. *The Michigan Reading Journal*. 40(3), 38-39.

Presentations

- Knezek, S. M. and Crisp, T. (accepted for November, 2012). "Being Versus Becoming: Challenging Representations of Gay Males in Adolescent Literature." In V. Struthers Walker and J. LaRose (Co-chairs) "Exploring What it Means to be Human: Genre and Diversity in Children's Literature" panel discussion. Depictions of Gender in Winners of NCTE's Orbis Pictus Award for Nonfiction. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Las Vegas, NV.
- Knezek, S. M. (March, 2012). "Making Connections With Nonfiction." Presentation given at the annual meeting of the Michigan Reading Association (MRA), Grand Rapids, MI.
- Knezek, S. M. (November, 2011). "Examining Constructions of Gender with Young Children." In T. Crisp and B. Hiller (Co-chairs) "Re-Examining Gender in Caldecott Medal-Winning Picturebooks" panel discussion. Panel conducted at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Chicago, IL.
- Knezek, S. M. (October, 2011). "Grassroots in the Field: A New Model for Literacy Classroom Experiences in Preservice Teacher Education." Paper presented at the Michigan Association of Teacher Educator's Annual Conference, Dearborn, MI.
- Furrow, H., Casement, R., Knezek, S. M., and Whitton, J. (October, 2011). "Sustainability and Spirit in Teaching Writing." Panel discussion held at the annual meeting of the Michigan Conference of Teachers of English (MCTE), East Lansing, MI.
- Kupperman, J., Dorfman, A., Hapgood, S., Holden, J. and Knezek, S. (accepted for May, 2011). "A Cabinet of Curiosity." Interactive workshop given at the Creativity, Play, and the Imagination across the Disciplines Conference at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- LaRose, J. and Knezek, S. M. (May, 2011). "Reading Like Writers Who Can Change the World: Studying Author's Craft to Build Critical Literacy Skills in Young Writers." Presentation given at the Annual Convention of the International Reading Association (IRA), Orlando, FL.
- Knezek, S. M., Van Hove, L., and Richards, D. (March, 2011). "Promoting Fluency Through Reader's Theater." Presentation given at the annual meeting of the Michigan Reading Association (MRA), Grand Rapids, MI.
- Knezek, S. M. and Crisp, T. (November, 2010). "Teaching Children's Literature in Multiple Modes: Sources, Stumbling Blocks, and Successes." Presentation given at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Orlando, FL.
- Knezek, 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. (November, 2009). "Being Versus Becoming: Challenging Representations of Gay Males in Adolescent Literature." In T. Crisp (Chair), "Re/Presenting Gay Males: Injustice and Social Changes through Children's and Adolescent Literature" panel discussion. Panel conducted at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Philadelphia, PA.
- Knezek, S. M. (March, 2009). "Beyond the Newbery and Caldecott: Investigating Awards That Honor Diversity in Children's and Adolescent Literature." Presentation given at the annual meeting of the Michigan Reading Association (MRA), Grand Rapids, MI.
- Knezek, S. M. (February, 2009). "I Can't Find Them Anywhere: The Scarcity of Award-Winning and Honored Multicultural Children's and Adolescent Literature." Presentation given at The Third Annual Children's Literature Symposium, University of South Florida, Sarasota/Manatee, Sarasota, FL.
- Knezek, S. M. and Crisp, T. (February, 2009). "Examining Preservice Teachers' Resistance to Reading Characterization in Multicultural Texts." Presentation given at The Third Annual Children's Literature Symposium, University of South Florida, Sarasota/Manatee, Sarasota, FL.
- Knezek, S. M. (December, 2008). "It's a Deeper Kind of Thinking!: Preservice Teachers' Understandings of Artistic Response to Children's and Adolescent Literature." Paper presented at the National Reading Conference (NRC), Orlando, FL.
- 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.
- Knezek, S. M. (March, 2008). "Exploring Artistic Response to Children's and Adolescent Literature." Presentation given at the annual meeting of the Michigan Reading Association (MRA), Detroit, MI.
- Knezek, S. M. and Cajiga, A. (October, 2007). "Teaching With Multicultural Texts." Presentation given at Kappa Delta Pi's Annual Convocation, Louisville, KY.

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.”

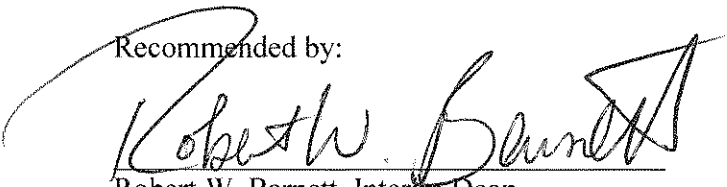
Reviewer (E)

“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:

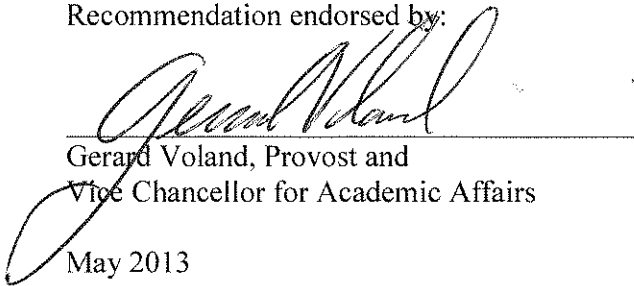
Professor Knezek has established a strong record of achievement in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. It is with the support of the Department of Education and the Executive Committee of the School of Education and Human Services that we enthusiastically recommend Suzanne M. Knezek for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

Recommended by:

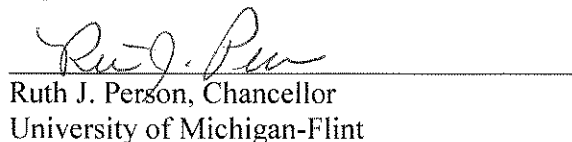


Robert W. Barnett, Interim Dean
School of Education and Human Services

Recommendation endorsed by:



Gerard Voland, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Ruth J. Person, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2013