

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

Chad H. Waldron, 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.	2014	Michigan State University, Curriculum, Instruction, and Teaching Education: Language and Literacy Studies, East Lansing
M.Ed.	2008	Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Reading Education/Reading Specialist, Edinboro
B.S.	1999	Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education, Edinboro

Professional Record:

2016 - present	Assistant Professor of Education, Literacy, University of Michigan-Flint
2014 – 2016	Assistant Professor of Language and Literacy Studies, Penn State Behrend, Erie
2011 – 2014	Graduate Course Instructor, College of Education Michigan State University, East Lansing

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Waldron’s teaching materials (teaching narrative, syllabi, course evaluations, and peer observations) exemplify his deep commitment to classroom teaching. He has taught seven undergraduate courses embedded across the Elementary Education program, five graduate courses within the MA in literacy education program, and one graduate course within the MA in early childhood education program, most mixed-mode or fully online. He has also played a key role in mentoring and supporting doctoral candidates. Professor Waldron is a rigorous and reflective teacher who has demonstrated his commitment to supporting his students as they become independent in their own learning and develop their competencies related to literacy instruction. He has engaged in significant course design and redesign in order to promote deep reflection and meet student needs. Patterns in his course evaluations have been consistently positive over the last five years and he has used student feedback constructively in order to guide continuous improvement to his own teaching and course designs. Student evaluations evidence that he brings “joy”, “support” and “energy” to his teaching skill in meeting his students’ unique needs.

Research: Professor Waldron has made numerous contributions to the community as well as the profession through his research. Since coming to UM-Flint, he has been a first author on five peer-reviewed journal articles and one editor-reviewed book chapter. Additionally, Professor Waldron has been involved with developing five commissioned research reports as well as a practitioner guide. Professor Waldron’s “own natural curiosity” has led him to cultivate three, concise yet connected areas of scholarly focus: young children’s literacy development, the professional learning and growth of teachers in literacy instruction, and the impacts of community-driven literacy interventions in shaping family and school literacy practices. He has disseminated his work in a variety of ways, including peer-refereed publications, invited presentations, professional development and training workshops; hence his positive

professional impact on the field has been felt in a variety of ways. In the future he plans to continue his work with the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and other efforts for community-driven literacy interventions.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

- Waldron, C.H. (2021). Policies, practices, people, and places: How elementary preservice teachers learned literacy teaching. *Michigan Reading Journal*, 53(3), pp. 22-29.
<https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/mrj/vol53/iss3/7/>
- Waldron, C.H. & McQueen, M. (2020). Arriving at school ready: Integrating Michigan's Literacy Essentials into prekindergarten contexts. *Michigan Reading Journal*, 52(2), pp. 41-48.
<https://michiganreading.org/resources/michigan-reading-journal/>
- Waldron, C.H. (2019). Reading, reforms, and resources: How elementary teachers teach literacy in contexts of complex policies and required curriculum. *Language Arts Journal of Michigan*, 35(1), pp. 8-16. <https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/lajm/>
- Waldron, C.H. (Accepted). More than contaminated water: Flint, Michigan's community-wide efforts for literacy. In N. Stahl and L. Henry (Eds.), *A Field Guide to Community Literacy: Case Studies and Tools for Praxis, Evaluation, and Research*. Taylor and Francis. To be published in early 2022.
- Mallette, M.H., Duke, N.K., Strachan, S.L., Waldron, C.H., & Watanabe, L.M. (2013). Synergy in literacy research methodology. In D.E. Alvermann, N. Unrau, and R.B. Ruddell (Eds.), *Theoretical models and processes of reading* (Sixth Edition, pp. 91-128). *International Reading Association*.
<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/c5cd/d8e14fee77b3d3fa7ac6b4333027b9f752cf.pdf>

Service: Professor Waldron not only meets but exceeds expectations. He has taken a significant leadership role in the redesign of the Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education programs due to a recent change in the state certification structure. Most recently, he is leading the unit's Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation efforts and has spent a significant amount of time preparing accreditation documentation, writing reports, and providing professional development to his colleagues. He has taken leadership roles on the Education Department's Advising Taskforce, SEHS Academic Standards Committee and the University's General Education Curriculum Committee. He has also provided unique opportunities for service to the profession and the community, through his work with Flint Kids Read and Literacy Essentials. Professor Waldron is clearly an impactful colleague with tremendous organizational skills in this area of his professional work.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "It is evident that he has been able to connect his teaching responsibilities with his scholarly endeavors, which is often critical for the success of any faculty member with a substantial teaching load. Indeed, his philosophy statement suggests that he values teaching and research as mutual endeavors that support one another in reciprocal ways."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Waldron's research aligns with service to the Flint community and represents his endeavor of supporting reading achievement and development for low-income children, within the framework of family literacy practices. His support of the families who have suffered from the aftermath of the Flint water crisis is impressive. He has acquired a variety of internal and external grant funds in support of his research endeavors."

Reviewer C: "One of his projects that I found fascinating was his work with the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. His research shows how early literacy experiences lead to the concept of print knowledge that provides a foundation for literacy learning. His variety of publications have spanned from

the local Flint community to the broader context of the state of Michigan and beyond. Educators can apply his work to their own context.”

Reviewer D: “Given his consistent university and community service, including participation and leadership roles on committees, his review board roles for reputable journals in the literacy field, his supervision of 4 doctoral students as main chairperson, and doctoral committee involvement, his ability to maintain a consistent trajectory in publishing is noteworthy along with his teaching allocation and achievements.”

Reviewer E: “...Dr. Waldron is drawing on the methodologies needed to answer the pressing questions (i.e., mixed methods, case studies, community audits) as opposed to maintaining a singular focus on a particular approach to literacy research.”

Reviewer F: “It is evident that Dr. Waldron is an engaged scholar committed to early literacy development, professional development, and community-driven literacy interventions...his work is of high quality, makes a recognizable contribution to the field, and offers evidence of continued professional growth and productivity.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Waldron has established himself as an excellent teacher, scholar, and citizen of the university, community, and profession. He has met and exceeded expectations in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. It is with the support of the Executive Committee of the School of Education and Human Services that I recommend Chad H. Waldron for promotion to associate professor of education, with tenure, Department of Education, School of Education and Human Services.

Recommended by:



Beth Kubitskey, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education and Human Services

Recommendation endorsed by:



Sonja Feist-Price, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Debasish Dutta, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2022

