

ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Educating Students for Christian Service and Leadership Throughout the World

Abilene, Texas 79699 • www.acu.edu • 325-674-2000



August 21, 2016

Dear Tenure and Promotion Committee:

It is my privilege to recommend Dr. Jennifer Huddleston for tenure and promotion at Abilene Christian University. I have worked closely with Dr. Huddleston as co-sponsors for ACU's Chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society (AX) for the last two years.

Jennifer takes the call to undergraduate research very seriously. She not only gives her time and energy to her biology and premed students and to the ACU Undergraduate Research Festival, she has become an active and integral part of ACU's AX chapter. Until spring of 2016, I served as primary sponsor of our AX chapter, and in 2013-14, I began to notice that an increasing number of our active AX student members and officers were working closely with Dr. Huddleston on research projects. They were applying for and receiving AX scholarships based on their scholarly research as well as winning awards at the National AX Conventions each year. Aware of her involvement with ACU Undergraduate Research, I asked Jennifer to join our AX sponsor team, and she immediately became an active, organized, and thoughtful co-sponsor. She has worked tirelessly to support our students as well as to bring new ideas, processes, and energy to our team.

She accompanied eight students to the 2015 National Convention in Chicago. I was involved in the National Leadership meetings that year and unable to be as available for our students as in previous year. Although she was a relatively new sponsor and attending her first AX conference, Jennifer supplied active, hands-on leadership for our student presenters, not only providing an audience for students wanting to refine and practice their presentations, but also attending and supporting their scholarly presentations.

Additionally, she accompanied them to off-site meals and sight-seeing excursions during the free time. Because my National Council responsibilities required me to arrive a day early and leave after the conference's conclusion, Jennifer took charge of the students as they traveled to and from Abilene. She aptly handled the first crisis that occurred when one student arrived at the Abilene airport for an early-morning flight without his ID; she immediately called on her father for assistance. He took the student back to his apartment, waited while he found his ID, and returned him to the airport in time for the flight.

In January, 2016, I asked Jennifer take on the lead sponsor position for our large AX Chapter (which serves approximately 350-400 honor students every year), which also involves frequent contact with the organization's National Office. I was certain that her ideas, her energy, and her commitment to undergraduate research would provide the best opportunity for our chapter to grow and thrive. She has assumed this demanding role and responsibility with grace and enthusiasm, achieving a seamless transition into chapter leadership. She involved our chapter in a Biology-sponsored lecture on C. S. Lewis, and accompanied twelve students to Washington D.C. in March 2016 to present their scholarly research at the National Convention just days after she completed her work with the ACU Undergraduate Research Committee and served at ACU's Undergraduate Research Festival. Under Jennifer's leadership our Chapter earned its fifth "Star Chapter" recognition, an honor which is awarded to only a handful of the Honor Society's 300+ chapters.

In addition to her work with undergraduates, I consider Jennifer a trustworthy and supportive friend and colleague. She is a delight to work alongside as we seek to provide the rich interdisciplinary learning experiences for our students. I whole-heartedly recommend Jennifer Huddleston for Tenure and Promotion based on my experience of her collegiality and, most importantly, her dedication to students and to undergraduate research and scholarship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mikee Delony". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mikee" and last name "Delony" clearly legible.

Mikee Delony
Culp Distinguished Professor of English
Associate Professor of English
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