To: Dr. Pam Kramer-Ertel  
From: Dr. Maureen McLaughlin, Chair, Reading Department  
Date: April 2, 2013  
Re: Dr. Mary Beth Allen’s Five Year Review

During the past five years, Dr. Mary Beth Allen has consistently demonstrated that she is an outstanding professor. Her knowledge of literacy, her in-depth dedication to teaching, and her keen awareness of the needs of her ESU students and the surrounding community support this. Evidence of this can be found in her Scholarly Growth and Service to the University and Community.

Effective Teaching

As delineated in Dr. Allen’s Five-Year Review portfolio, she has taught a variety of courses. As noted in her course evaluations and peer observations, Mary Beth has been highly successful in her instructional endeavors. Her student evaluations attest to her expertise in the classroom. Personal notes of thanks from her students and numerous positive comments from her peers about her in-depth knowledge and excellent teaching abilities evince not only her high quality her teaching, but the depth of her caring.

In her course evaluations, which consistently averaged above 4.0, students particularly noted that her assignments are directly connected to their understanding. They also reported that she is consistently well prepared for class and that she is a good teacher. Dr. Allen clearly motivates her students and promotes their understanding of literacy. The effectiveness of Dr. Allen’s teaching is fully supported by the fact that she is well-respected by her students and her peers.

In addition, Dr. Allen transformed numerous graduate reading courses into Distance Education courses, and these have received excellent feedback from students. She also developed one of our new Chapter 49 courses, REED 520 Teaching Reading to Students with Disabilities, which is being offered for the first time this semester.
Scholarship

As evinced in Dr. Allen’s promotion portfolio, she continually engages in scholarly pursuits. There are numerous examples to support this. Mary Beth is an author. She recently published two books about literacy centers with Scholastic: *Fresh Takes on Centers: Comprehension* and *Fresh Takes on Centers: Writing*. She is also the co-author of *Guided Comprehension in Grades 3 – 8*, a best-selling volume about teaching students how to comprehend. Mary Beth consistently presents at national and state conferences, including the International Reading Association (IRA) Conference, the world’s premier literacy association. She presents at and serves as Conference Coordinator for the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER). Mary Beth has also served as a proposal reviewer for IRA. In addition, she has presented at numerous other national, state, and local conferences, including the Keystone State Reading Association Conference.

Service to University and Community

In addition to her teaching, Mary Beth advises students and represents the Reading Department on a variety of ESU committees, including the University Senate and College of Education NCATE Field Experience Committee. She has also served on committees within the Reading Department and is currently leading the Department’s Curriculum Mapping Project. Further, Mary Beth has worked tirelessly as a literacy consultant to put research into practice. She is also a member and officer of her local reading council and a member of the Advisory Board for the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Based on the evidence reviewed, Dr. Allen is an excellent professor, who has mastered the art of balancing classroom expertise with scholarship and service to the University, Department, and community.

[Signature]

Date: April 3, 2013

Dr. Maureen McLaughlin
Chairperson, Reading Department