To: Dr. Pamela Kramer-Ertel, Dean, College of Education  
From: Dr. Rhonda Sutton, Chair, Reading Department Evaluation Committee  
Date: April 1, 2013  
Re: Dr. Mary Beth Allen’s Five-Year Review

The Reading Department Evaluation Committee submits the following five-year review of Dr. Mary Beth Allen (2008-2013). As specified in the CBA, the following evidence for her performance review and evaluation are respectfully submitted: teaching effectiveness and fulfillment of professional responsibilities; continuing scholarly growth; and service to the University and community.

**Effective Teaching and Fulfillment of Professional Responsibilities**

A review of Dr. Allen’s portfolio documents fulfillment of teaching and professional responsibilities. She teaches a full load of courses. Dr. Allen is also well prepared for all of her classes and meets at the assigned times. During the period covered by this report, she has taught six graduate level courses. Students report that she is accessible and willing to provide assistance to them outside of office hours.

Dr. Allen is a highly effective educator. She has taught a variety of courses and is integral in the Distance Education initiative in the Reading Department. She redesigned the courses she teaches for delivery in Distance Education format. In addition, she was also integral in the creation of new Distance Education courses. Dr. Allen’s Distance Education courses serve as a model for other Distance Education course development in the Reading Department and makes ESU one of the leaders in Reading Distance Education. She is widely respected across the College of Education for her efforts in offering quality
instruction via Distance Education. Dr. Allen’s classroom performance is of high quality as indicated by student evaluations. A review of Dr. Allen’s evaluations, indicate consistent ratings ranging from 3.75 to 5.00, with the majority in the high end range. Personal notes of appreciation also attest to Dr. Allen’s effectiveness as an educator. Further support is provided by extremely positive classroom observations by colleagues. Syllabi and teaching materials submitted in this review reveal current and innovative practices in the design and delivery of instruction. Students are encouraged to critically analyze current instructional practices and develop lessons that teach effective reading strategies.

Dr. Allen is highly regarded and extremely valuable to the Reading Department and the College of Education because of her effective teaching practices and fulfillment of professional responsibilities.

**Continuing Scholarly Growth**

Dr. Allen has demonstrated ongoing scholarly growth, which includes presentations at international, national, state and local conferences. Dr. Allen has presented at the international conferences of the International Association of Reading (IRA) and the Hawaii International Conference on Education. At the national level, her presentations included the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER), the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), the National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS), and the College Reading Association. State conference presentations include the Maryland International Reading Association and the Keystone State Reading Association (KSRA).

In addition to an active schedule of presentations, Dr. Allen contributed to the reading educator profession through several scholarly publications. She authored an article
that appears in *The College Reading Association legacy: A celebration of fifty years of literacy leadership*, a peer-reviewed journal. She also authored two books on learning centers in reading and writing. Dr. Allen co-authored the book, *Guided Comprehension: Combined 2nd Edition*.

Dr. Allen’s active presentation schedule and scholarly publications demonstrate continued contributions to the profession.

**Service to the University and to the Community**

Dr. Allen actively provides service to the University and to the community. Her service at ESU includes being a member of University Senate and the Research and Academic Affairs University Senate sub-committees, College of Education NCATE Standard 3 committee, the Middle Level Program Restructuring Committee, and Professional and Secondary Education Doctoral Program Dissertation committee. Her service to the Reading Department includes chair of the Reading Department Evaluation committee, curriculum mapping project leader, and Reading Department Cohort advisor.

At the national level, she serves as Conference Coordinator for the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers. In this role, Dr. Allen negotiates logistical contracts for the organization’s conferences, planning conference events, and creates preconference communications that is shared with conference attendees.

During the time of this review, Dr. Allen was chosen to be the 2011 Alumni Ambassador from Texas A&M Commerce. This is a prestigious honor from the university in which she received her doctorate degree. She has also served as a reviewer for educational materials, literacy consultant for several school districts in Pennsylvania and participates on the Advisory Board for the Horace Mann School for the Deaf.

Together, Dr. Allen’s service to the University and the community portrays an active role at the national, university and local levels.
As attested by the evidence presented in her portfolio and highlighted in our review, Dr. Mary Beth Allen clearly continues to be a highly committed, knowledgeable, and effective member of the Reading Department who contributes to ESU and the community. In the next five years, she should continue to refine her teaching and add new strategies for distance education. Additionally, she can continue to share information about literacy instruction and online teaching, at conferences and in writing.

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