



LaGuardia Community College

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4.4.10

TO: Prof. James Richardson, Humanities Department
FROM: Bret Eynon, Ass't Dean for Academic Affairs
RE: Leadership

I am delighted to have the opportunity to write in recognition of your multiple and highly significant contributions to the work of advancing teaching and learning at LaGuardia. You have been a highly constructive participant in a range of year-long professional development seminars dating back to 2002. Your sustained role in launching and advancing the LaGuardia ePortfolio initiative has been invaluable. And your leadership of the New Media program has contributed to its growth and alignment with key LaGuardia priorities, including the integration of professional and General Education competencies.

I am particularly pleased to highlight your absolutely crucial contribution to LaGuardia's ePortfolio initiative. Since 2002, you have provided essential expertise, drawing on your knowledge of digital media, software development and project management. The project would not have gotten off of the ground without your major contribution, selecting our initial ePortfolio software and co-directing the pilot year of ePortfolio teaching. Since that time, you have always been willing to step in and help us solve our technology issues, up to and through the selection of a new ePortfolio platform in the 2008-2010 period. There is no one in the college, in my experience, with a deeper expertise in this area. We have benefited from your skill and insight again and again and again.

Two recent examples highlight your on-going contribution. You have played a vital role in the development of our Title V-funded capstone learning initiative. In 2007-8, based on your commitment and expertise, we invited you to join the select Capstone Faculty Research Team. As a part of this team, you studied the national literature about capstone learning and did research on capstone pedagogy and practice at LaGuardia and campuses nationwide. Your work and your valuable insights informed the team's report to the College, which has since guided the development of capstone practice across the college. Following up on this, you took part in the pilot year of the Re-thinking the Capstone Experience seminar, and did excellent work in re-organizing and strengthening the capstone course of the New Media Technology program, ensuring that it reflected both our General Education competencies and the capstone themes of synthesis, reflection, culmination and transition.

Meanwhile, you also took part in the ePortfolio Mini-Grant process, examining and re-aligning the entire New Media Technology curriculum to better integrate college priorities and emergent practices in the digital media field. Your responsible, careful and



sustained work in this area was highly impressive, and helped others to understand the kind of overarching re-organization that would most benefit your program, college-wide assessment, and student learning.

It has been a privilege to watch your work and your skills grow and evolve, James. Your impact on the lives of students and on the educational work of the College is already strong, and I have confidence that it will continue to grow as you emerge as a key educational leader in your program, your field, and the College as a whole.