
University of Northern Iowa

Faculty Senate
3-14-2025

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to seek your support for Dr. Elana Joram's application for emerita faculty status. During her thirty years at the University of Northern Iowa, she has made significant contributions to multiple fields of scholarship, including mathematics education, health education, epistemic cognition, and teacher preparation. Dr. Joram is well known for the high quality of her teaching, her engaged approach to service commitments, and her mentorship of colleagues and students alike. I would like to share a small slice of Dr. Joram's accomplished career below.

Research Contributions

Dr. Joram has been a highly respected scholar in multiple fields of study, from math education and teacher preparation to health. Her research has had a significant impact both within and beyond our institution. She has published more than 30 book chapters and peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Joram's work has received grant support on more than twenty occasions. Her research has been shared in local, national, and international venues. During her career, she has generated an influential body of work that remains relevant to today's scholars. Dr. Joram's contributions to the field are numerous and of high quality.

Teaching and Mentorship

In addition to her research, Dr. Joram has been a dedicated teacher and mentor. She has taught a wide range of courses, including Learning and Motivation, Dynamics of Human Development, Mental Health and Well-Being in the Classroom, Educational Research, and more. Elana's work in the classroom has always been held in high regard by her students. My colleague is also my former mentor. Dr. Joram was the Chair of my Tenure and Promotion Subcommittee during my pre-tenure years. Her guidance was invaluable to me as a junior colleague. Dr. Joram has also mentored graduate students and served as the dissertation chair for three Ed.D. recipients, as well as advising many master's papers.

Service to the Institution

Dr. Joram is a colleague deeply committed to serving others. Her vita lists six pages of service commitments during her time at UNI. She has served on numerous committees, including as Departmental PAC Chair and Chair of the College of Education Professional Assessment Committee, and has been a Chair, Co-Chair, or Member of many search committees. Her professional service includes contributions to more than twenty organizations, reviewing scholarly products such as grants, presentations, and publications.

I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Joram for nearly nine years. I enthusiastically endorse her candidacy for this well-deserved recognition.

Sincerely,

Ron Rinehart
Department Head of EPFLS and Associate Professor
Department of Educational Psychology, Foundations, and Leadership Studies
University of Northern Iowa