

January, 29, 2024

Dear Faculty Senate,

I am writing to support Dr. Lauren Nelson's application for Emeritus Faculty at the University of Northern Iowa.

Lauren Nelson has over a 30-year career in higher education at the University of Northern Iowa. Her time here began in 1990 as an Assistant Professor in the department. She has taught coursework in the areas of phonetics, child language, phonology, technology, and research methods. Lauren's scholarship has focused on communication in young children, technology in service delivery, and research methods in the field of speech-language pathology. Lauren has been a servant leader much of her career. She has served on multiple committees and in volunteer positions for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation: Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology, and the Iowa Speech-Language-Hearing Association. At the university level, Lauren has been a member and vice-chair of the Graduate Council, member and chair of the Graduate Faculty, and member and vice-chair of the College Senate. Specific to the department, Lauren has probably served on every committee at least once including the curriculum, admissions, clinic, and student outcomes committee multiple years. In 2016, Lauren was selected as the Department Head and served in the role until August 2023. She has been a valuable member of the department!

Lauren Nelson is a respected member of the UNI faculty, professional field, and our community. She has been gracious with her time in mentoring new faculty, students and colleagues as well as serving others. I endorse her request for Emeritus status and wish her the best in retirement!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Darrett

Associate Professor & Department Head, Communication Sciences and Disorders University of Northern Iowa

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