



August 3, 2020
Faculty Senate
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614

Re: Mary Stichter
Emeritus Status

Dear Dr. John Burnight:

This recommendation letter summarizes Ms. Mary Stichter's professional contributions to the University of Northern Iowa and informs a recommendation for emeritus status. Mary Stichter began her career at the former Price Laboratory School of the University of Northern Iowa as an elementary teacher in 1991. While teaching for 21 years at Price Lab she was actively involved in curriculum development for primary students and mentoring UNI preservice teachers.

In 2012 she joined the UNI faculty as a tenured instructor in the Office of Student Field Experience. During her time on faculty she developed partnerships with local educators across the Cedar Valley and supervised UNI students in their Level 1 and Level 2 field experiences. Her interactions with UNI students are notable for being supportive, caring and respectful.

UNI benefitted from Mary's commitment to service in several ways. For many years she provided leadership for the Elementary Literacy Conference, bringing well known authors to campus for students to work with and for local teachers to engage in professional development. For the last three years she represented the Department of Teaching on the College of Education Senate. She was instrumental in the design and facilitation of Teaching Connections, a two-day workshop on working with English Language Learners in the classroom, attended by UNI faculty, preservice teachers and local educators.

The Department of Teaching and the College of Education have benefitted from the contributions of Mary Stichter in the educator preparation program. I support her request for the honor of emeritus status.

Respectfully,

Mary Donegan-Ritter, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Former Interim Department Head, Department of Teaching
Coordinator, Early Childhood Education Program