

Letter of Support for Kristen Taylor

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From: Tim Beagley PhD
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To Sitting Committee Members and Other Evaluators,

I am writing to express my unequivocal and strong support for Kristen Taylor as a Full-Time Tenured Faculty Member in the Biology Department at Salt Lake Community College. I understand that she is being reviewed by her Sitting Committee for another Letter of Progress and for the awarding of Tenure. She absolutely should receive BOTH. Over the years, I have served as Kristen's teacher, laboratory/research mentor, co-author, chair and now her colleague. It is my observation that Kristen is an accomplished scientist, a model biology teacher and an even better faculty member.

Kristen is well known among the circles of scientists who study marine mammals and their sensory perception mechanisms. Her research on the auditory systems of these fine creatures comprises a body of important scientific knowledge that helps with conservation efforts and furthers our understanding. Of particular importance, her research perfectly complements her teaching duties at SLCC. It is fortunate for all of us that Kristen can teach courses that so closely parallel her research interests and expertise.

I have personally observed that her students absolutely love her and she reciprocates by preparing them well for their further courses. As a teacher, Kristen has found the magic middle ground between toughness and compassion, between rigor and simplicity. She explains concepts to her students in such a way that they not only understand and comprehend them but that they also can apply those important concepts in very practical ways. Indeed, I have had the fortune of teaching many students in Cell Biology and Microbiology that came through one of Kristen's classes. They are well prepared, knowledgeable and motivated to succeed. It is very clear to me that her students are well served having had her as their teacher.

As impressive as her science and teaching are, her service to the college and to our department is even more so. Kristen serves on numerous committees and has been a faculty senator for several years. I can't think of any faculty member in our department that serves on more college wide and school wide committees. Kristen is always available to help with important tasks that come up from time to time. I, personally feel that she has become a great example of what a good faculty member should be.

In summary, I find Kristen Taylor to be a gifted scientist, a wonderful educator and an invaluable member of our department faculty. I recommend that Kristen be given a Letter of Progress and that she be awarded a well-deserved permanent Tenure. I do so as strongly as I possibly can.

Sincerely,



Tim Beagley PhD