

14 January 2026

To whom it may concern:

I write in enthusiastic support of Erin Brooks's application for promotion to the rank of professor. As Associate Director of the Lougheed Center for Applied Learning, I have a broad perspective on undergraduate research at SUNY Potsdam, and from this vantage point I can say without hesitation that Dr. Brooks's contributions to the student research experience have been both sustained and deeply impactful.

An accomplished scholar and dynamic teacher, Dr. Brooks has inspired an exceptional number of undergraduates to pursue independent research. She has mentored no fewer than eight Presidential Scholars and two semester-long Kilmer research recipients, as well as guided a student's lecture recital for the LoKo Festival. In every case, the quality of her mentorship has enabled students to produce work of remarkable caliber—often at a level one would expect from graduate study. I know this not only from observing the outcomes, but also from hearing students speak firsthand about how transformative Dr. Brooks's guidance and encouragement have been. It's not often that you hear undergraduates enthusing about their drafts being covered with red ink.

Through her mentorship, Dr. Brooks has helped prepare some of our most talented and ambitious students for success in graduate school and beyond. In this respect, she is a true leader on campus, playing a vital role in making SUNY Potsdam a place where ideas are engaging and the learning experience can be genuinely transformative.

Promotion to the rank of professor would be a fitting recognition of Dr. Brooks's exceptional contributions to our campus. It would also help ensure that she continues to inspire her students and to challenge and support her colleagues in modeling the highest standards of academic excellence.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas N. Baker

Associate Director, Lougheed Center for Applied Learning