

August 15, 2005

Dr. Martha Archuleta, Interim Head
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
College of Agriculture and Home Economics
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dear Dr. Archuleta:

I would like to request consideration for promotion to full professor at New Mexico State University. My achievements are described in the enclosed core document and appendix. These materials give evidence to the maturity I have gained since tenure and promotion to associate professor in 1997. I will briefly summarize my background and then describe my teaching, research, and service activities.

I completed undergraduate degrees in Child Development and Elementary Education at Florida State University in 1978. I taught elementary school for several years to gain experience, and then pursued a master's and doctorate in Child and Family Development at the University of Georgia. In 1989, I was hired as a faculty member by Ball State University. After 2 years, I was recruited for my position at NMSU. I have been at NMSU for 14 years.

Teaching. The instruction of undergraduate and graduate students is one of the most visible, and rewarding, aspects of being a university professor. I have a 75% teaching appointment. From 1997-1999, I taught 3 undergraduate and 3 graduate courses per year. Due to grant responsibilities during 2000-2005, my teaching load was reduced to 2 graduate classes per year. On average, I taught 123 students per year and produced 323 student credit hours per year. I taught 11 different met classes, as well as numerous independent study courses, in the past 9 years.

I take my responsibilities as a teacher seriously, and devote extensive time and energy to preparing for class. I utilize a variety of teaching methods to make class interesting and encourage student success. I am enthusiastic about my subject matter, and try to convey that passion to my students. I was honored to receive college level and university level teaching awards, and to be nominated for a national teaching award. Former students also nominated me for inclusion in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, profiled my teaching in the local newspaper, and donated money in my name to a national scholarship for Hispanic students.

In addition to my instructional duties, I advise and mentor students. Since 1997, my advising load has totaled 905 (743 undergraduates, 162 graduate students). In the

past 9 years, my advising load has ranged from 45 students to 134 students. I currently advise 40 undergraduates and 17 graduate students. I meet with each student to formulate a program of study, a time line for graduating, and strategies for embarking on a career. I continue to mentor students after graduation. My responsibilities also include working with graduate students. Since 1997, I have served on 376 committees (162 as chair, 214 as member). In addition to the 17 committees I currently chair, I serve on 23 master's committees and 6 doctoral committees.

Scholarly Activity. My research focuses on the role of parenting in preventing youth problem behavior. In the past 7 years, I brought in \$3.8 million dollars in grants and contracts. Of the 22 funded projects, 16 were from federal and state agencies such as the USDA, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the National Education Association Health Information Network, and the New Mexico Department of Human Services. Dr. Montañez and I recently worked with the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department to submit a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for marriage education for families involved with, or at risk of involvement with, the child welfare system. The grants benefited me professionally by allowing me to work with nationally known experts and to develop new research and management skills. The grants benefited the students in Family and Child Science by providing internships, graduate assistantships, and jobs upon graduation. Most importantly, the grants benefited the people of New Mexico by providing research-based parenting programs.

Dissemination of one's work is a key component of scholarly activity. I published 7 articles in journals since my last review, and have one article accepted for publication. Two manuscripts will be submitted this fall. In addition, I published 1 abstract, 2 sections in books, 1 conference proceedings, and 5 technical reports. I produced 4 issues of *Family Times*, a bilingual parenting newsletter that is distributed in 39 newspapers across the state. I also developed 8 parenting curricula that are being used by county home economists in New Mexico. As noted in department promotion guidelines, "other scholarly activities that transfer research-based knowledge or technology and attempt to solve problems for the department's diverse clientele are also valued." Since 1997, I have made 39 (25 national, 14 state or regional) presentations to professional groups.

Scholarly activity also includes directing student research. Three master's students and one undergraduate student successfully defended theses since my last review, and one master's student will defend her thesis in October. I served as a committee member for 12 theses and 18 dissertations. I also encouraged undergraduate students to become involved in research activities. I was a mentor to 5 students in the Ronald E. McNair Baccalaureate Achievement Program. These students conducted research projects, made presentations at local, state, and national meetings, and published work in the McNair Journal. I also directed one student in a HOT (Health Oriented Topic) Project funded by the College of Health and Human Services. I am currently working with a Native American student in the Pathways to Progress project funded by the College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Service. Active participation in the university, the community, and one's profession is an essential component of every faculty member's job. I have served or am serving on 17 departmental committees, 14 college committees, and 7 university committees. At the college level, the busiest committee is the Advising Committee. We meet monthly to develop materials and policies to assist academic faculty in their advising role. At the university level, the most intensive committee is the Appeals Board. We worked on numerous faculty appeals, and held several hearings. I was elected to this position for 2 terms. My most rewarding university service was helping establish the Family Resource Center. The Family Resource Center offers parenting classes, family therapy, and WIC nutrition services to students and their families. It also serves as a departmental laboratory, allowing students to develop teaching, program planning, and family therapy skills in a supervised environment.

In addition to my service to NMSU, I have been involved in 12 community organizations, and made 29 presentations to community groups and local conferences. On 11 occasions, I gave invited testimony to state legislators. I am frequently cited in local and state newspapers. I held leadership roles in professional organizations at the state and national levels. I served as one of the coordinators for the Media Awards Competition sponsored by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). I continue to serve on NCFR's national review team to review applications for the Certified Family Life Educator credential. I am a regular reviewer for 2 journals in my field, and have reviewed several textbooks for publishers. I also reviewed 2 publications for Ellyn Satter, an internationally known expert in child nutrition.

One of the requirements for promotion to full professor is evidence of stature in one's field. I was recently honored as one of 25 Outstanding Parent Educators in the U.S. by Parenting Press. The parenting programs and research I direct are recognized nationally. The Food Research and Action Center in Washington, DC highlighted my work in a national publication. The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) at Columbia University selected the Family Strengthening Partnership as one of the top 25 innovative programs in the U.S. serving young children and their families. One of the primary criteria was the research base behind the program. We were one of 10 programs invited to present at a national showcase in Washington, DC sponsored by the NCCP. The parenting program was also mentioned as an example of an effective partnership in the 2003 Commemorative Lecture at the 94th American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences annual convention. The speech was later published in the *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences*.

I believe that I have made important contributions in the areas of teaching, scholarly activity, and service. I respectfully request consideration for promotion to full professor.

Sincerely,

Esther L. Devall, Ph.D., CFLE