NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

CampusEngage
Network for the Promotion of Civic Engagement in Irish Higher Education

Kristine Grefsheim
Director of Programs
Chancellor's Professors
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12 January 2011

To whom it concerns.

It is my great pleasure to support the nomination of Professor Robert Bringle for the award of Chancellor's Professor for his service to Ireland as an exemplary IUPUI university citizen.

Professor Bringle and I first met at the IARSLCE conference in Portland, Oregon in 2006 when I was greatly impressed by his ability to effect curricular change through his strong communication and scholarly skills. I had previously had the pleasure of reading and interrogating his scholarly work, and was delighted to meet him in person. Leading from this initial meeting, we, in Ireland, devised a strategy to attain his leadership and expertise though a semester long engagement as part of an evolving national network to support civic engagement within higher education, Campus Engage.

Professor Bringle in 2009 spent a semester in Ireland with Campus Engage and I cannot overplay his role in helping us arrive at the present moment in time when the Irish government has now placed civic engagement and service learning as a core pillar for the higher education community moving forward. Yesterday (11/0102001) the Higher Education Authority (HEA) released the *National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030* that not only references service learning and civic engagement but refers to Professor Bringle scholarly work.

While in Ireland, Professor Bringle was based at the National University of Ireland, Galway but travelled across the island of Ireland teaching his knowledge of civic engagement and practice of service learning through a range of seminars, keynotes addresses and workshops hosted by various colleges and universities. In that time he engaged with over 400 colleagues across the island and higher education community bringing an understanding on this new terrain within the context of Ireland. He engaged with a diverse range of

stakeholders key to the evolution of this work including government representatives, Presidents of university and colleges, academics, administrators and students. He pitched his teaching and communication at individualised levels and was flexible in terms of his approach so that effective understanding could be attained. In addition, he devoted time to writing scholarly publications in partnership with colleagues in Ireland to showcase the extent of theoretical understandings through peer reviewed publications.

I continue to work with Professor Bringle having attended an international conference with him in Turkey in July 2010 and hope to publish a book later in 2011 where his writings will also feature.

I would like to frontload that Professor Bringle's engagement with us in Ireland underpins teaching, research through creative works, and service. He is not only a leader of the civic engagement and service learning movement within the US but he is also a global leader with his teaching and scholarly pursuits recognised and used widely from afar. When I now think of IUPUI, I now think of Professor Bringle and his creative leadership, and the north star of civic engagement that is IUPUI.

Professor Bringle has been a critical and supportive friend to the evolution of civic engagement within higher education in Ireland and I think on this basis alone he deserves this important award.

Yours sincerely,

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