Tulane University

New Orleans, LA

January 17, 2011

Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching Review Committee
Faculty Appointments and Advancement
Office of Academic Affairs
Administrative Building, Room 126
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

Dear Academic Affairs Representative:

I am writing to support the nomination of Robert G. Bringle for the IUPUI Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Bob is most deserving of this recognition, not only for his contributions at IUPUI but for the tremendous influence he has had on instructional practices in higher education in the United States and internationally. His research on aspects of service learning and community engagement has shaped thinking about pedagogy, student learning processes, and campus-community partnerships. His conference presentations and workshops have had a major influence on faculty development efforts and other initiatives undertaken by service-learning/outreach practitioners and K-12 service-learning educators. Symposia on aspects of assessment and practice in service-learning, organized by UIPUI's Center for Service and Learning, which Bob directs, have stimulated new research initiatives and collaborations for scholars from throughout the U.S.

Bob's research and writings have addressed a wide range of important issues in service learning and community engagement. Some that I have found to be particularly useful are the following:

Assessment of student learning: Bob has been concerned with high-quality assessment, addressing issues through quantitative research and in an important book, *The Measure of Service Learning*, published by the American Psychological Association.

Effective pedagogy: In collaboration with Julie Hatcher, Bob has provided models for faculty development and has written articles on the importance of reflection as a central aspect of instruction in service learning.

Students' motives: Bob has published research on students' motivation for service and individual differences affecting their reactions to service that have powerful implications for how service-learning courses are structured and implemented.

Retention issues: Bob's research has demonstrated that students' service-learning experiences influence both their plans for continuing their studies at the university level and their actual re-enrollment.

Partnerships: With Patti Clayton, Bob has developed models and used them to guide research on how members of campus-community partnerships interact with and influence each other.

Institutional change: Bob has written articles and made presentations on the importance of building stable, enduring programs to support service-learning and community engagement efforts.

In all of this work, Bob has demonstrated a high level of scholarship and concern for quality in research, theory, and practice. His presentations are always solid and substantial, demonstrating broad knowledge, a deep level of thinking, and good judgment.

In summary, Bob's contributions, through research, presentations, and workshops have been very influential in shaping and pushing forward instruction and research in service learning and community engagement, throughout the U.S. and internationally. He is very deserving of the recognition offered by this award.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Moely
Professor Emerita, Psychology
Research Affiliate, Center for Public Service
Tulane University