Indiana | Campus Compact

January 18, 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
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Members of the Review Committee,

It is with great honor that I submit this letter in support of Dr. Robert "Bob" Bringle for the IUPUI Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. In Bob's nomination packet are documents that describe his teaching content and pedagogy. While I have not been a student in one of Dr. Bringle's "traditional classes"—one that has a university course and section number assigned to it-as a professional working to advance the fields of service learning and civic engagement I have had the opportunity to be a student of Bob's many times. Based on my experiences with Dr. Bringle and upon reviewing the documents that he has submitted, I have no doubt that his classroom teaching is just as engaging and thought-provoking as the formal and informal opportunities that I have had to learn with Bob.

The first workshop that I attended with Dr. Bringle was at Mount Union College in January 2005. I was a doctoral candidate, unhappy with the path I had started down for my dissertation and attended this workshop on First Year Students and Service Learning. The questions that he asked and the promise that he showed for combining two powerful pedagogies—intentional first year experience courses and service learning—inspired me to study this for my dissertation. Bob was more than willing to share research tools with me and gave me carte blanche to use his tools in my own research.

Three years later, I moved into my current position as Executive Director of Indiana Campus Compact. Bob was instrumental in starting this organization in 1993 and his influence is seen not only in the work we continue to do with campuses in Indiana, but with faculty and on campuses around the world. In this new role, I have been fortunate to be a student of Bob's as he once again shared a research tool with Indiana Campus Compact and provided consultation to us as we updated it and used the tool with campuses across the state. Additionally, he has made himself available to present workshops and plenary sessions at statewide gatherings of faculty and staff on Indiana Campus Compact member campuses. This spring the IUPUI Center for Service and Learning and Indiana Campus Compact will host the third IUPUI Research Academy where Bob will once again help teach and mentor faculty as he pushes them to strengthen their research questions and methods in service learning and community based research projects.

Dr. Robert Bringle has pushed me to be a better practitioner and researcher in the field of service learning as a student in the field. He lives Kolb's Learning Theory not only in his classroom, but in any

experience where he has the opportunity to share and create ideas and knowledge. Through this he has pushed me, and many others, to be reflective practitioners in the work that we engage in every day. More than anything though, Dr. Bringle's most impressive attribute is that he not concerned about getting credit for what he does, he does it because he believes in it and feels that it is the right thing to do. Bob is most concerned in what learning is taking place and how he may "pay it forward" by helping students, faculty and staff that have embraced the work that he holds so close to his heart.

I cannot think of a faculty member that is more deserving of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and hope that you will give serious consideration to his nomination. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

Maggie Stevens, EdD
Executive Director