



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

LEARNING FOR LIFE (L4L)

Department Advisory Committee
Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Ave.
Providence, RI 02908

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in support of Dragan Gill's application for tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. I was first introduced to Dragan through our work on the Asset Map, a collaboration of Learning for Life and The Central Falls/Rhode Island College Innovation Lab. Since then I have seen her strong commitment to Rhode Island College's student body and to supporting the College with its Strategic Action Plan. Her commitment to academics, diversity, technology, and institutional progress are the foremost reasons in my mind for why she should be promoted to the rank of *Associate Professor and granted tenure*.

Through the Asset Map, Dragan, Amethys Nieves, and I were able to create a map of resources organized by service types. This enables Navigators (peer-mentors), students and faculty to see what resources are available to them in their communities. During this project Dragan was eager to learn more about RIC's student body. She understands that students are multifaceted, it is this willingness to see students as full persons that makes her such a valuable resource to our community. So often students voice that faculty focus so much on the academics they don't see how the students are struggling. Dragan's understanding of student needs enables her to provide exemplary support to students, helping them increase their skills and on an institutional level, I believe she contributes to increasing retention.

Dragan's focus on student development and information literacy stimulates academic curiosity and investigation. By teaching research instruction as a lab, she uses best practices to encourage students to normalize not knowing an answer so that they can objectively and actively research. I have seen how this increases student's academic self-worth as they share their experiences with me in L4L. They look forward to their sessions with her and return invigorated and prepared to take on their assignments. Her personalized work with students and collaborative work with faculty ensures that she understands the learning objectives. This results in students gaining research and critical thinking skills that will help them thrive in academic and professional careers.

By leading the Rhode Island Open Textbook Initiative, Dragan leverages the use of technology in the classroom to save faculty and students time and money. To date, they have saved \$807,600. Her dedication to this initiative is an example of how she embraces technology to meet students where



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they are at, fiscally and academically. Centralized, well-coordinated work like this is what RIC needs as it places itself as an accessible, modern four-year institution.

There is no doubt in my mind that Dragan has contributed to RIC's changing academic, technological, social and economic environments. In my personal experience it is rare to see one community member touch so many areas of campus, she has truly been an asset to the College on an individual and institutional level. Rhode Island College would be remiss if it did not extend tenure and promotion to this individual who continues to work so generously for the College.

Sincerely,

Laura Coelho '17

Data Management Specialist