

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Board of Trustees,

It is my great honor to write this letter in support of Allison Obourn, a candidate for tenure in the Computer Science department. I have had the pleasure of working with Allison since I began working at Edmonds College in June of 2022. As soon as I met Allison, she impressed me with her enthusiasm for teaching, thorough communication, and willingness to support students in and outside the classroom.

As the STEM Student Retention Program Manager, I have worked closely with Allison on numerous occasions. She is eager to support STEM students at events such as Fall Kickoff and STEM Advising Sessions. One particular occasion stands out to me. In November of 2022, I organized a drop-in STEM Advising Session right before open enrollment for Winter quarter began. Allison eagerly agreed to advise at the event. She arrived about 30 minutes into the Advising Session to find at least five students waiting for her already. I hurried to grab more chairs and create space around the table for the flood of students in need of Computer Science advising. Allison, the only Computer Science representative present, calmly and kindly addressed the needs of each and every student who came that day, at least twenty total.

One of my roles is to direct the RiSE Peer Mentor Program. The previous Computer Science Faculty Coordinator retired earlier in 2022, and Dr. Carey Schroyer, the Dean of STEM, suggested I ask Allison if she would like to become the new Faculty Coordinator for CS. Allison agreed and has already made a point to attend our bi-weekly team meetings (which are voluntary for Faculty Coordinators) and engage with the Peer Mentors. The Mentors and I are grateful to have her as part of the team. I'm eager to see how her computer science and outreach expertise improve the program and benefit RiSE students.

On multiple occasions, Allison and I discussed at length the need for a better communication system to spread information to our students. There is no easy way to mass email a specific set of students (e.g., all CS students), which is quite frustrating to me, Allison, and others. Allison took it upon herself to find more information about how our system works and how to improve this issue. While a solution is still in progress, I appreciate her efforts to make sure that announcements, resources, and opportunities reach our STEM students through a more efficient process.

Allison brings energy and enthusiasm to her work in Computer Science. She is a valuable member of the STEM division and a joy to work with. I wholeheartedly recommend Allison for tenure at Edmonds College.

Sincerely,



Abby Ulofoshio  
STEM Student Retention Program Manager  
STEM Division, Edmonds College