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DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

February 10, 2014

I am writing to share some of Dr. Barbara Bridges’ contributions to the department and university over the past four years I have known and worked with her. First, I have witnessed Dr. Bridges take new faculty members under her wing to mentor, myself included. She has encouraged me to stick to my principles and to step up when needed in order to sustain forward progress in the department. I have seen her do likewise many times, related to the restructuring of the FasTrack program, serving on hiring committees, chairing and co-chairing standing committees, actively taking on graduate student advisees, teaching across programs (outside of DLiTE/FasTrack), and always being a participative member of department discussions. In particular, her great effort recently to bring FasTrack back to BSU has been an extraordinary accomplishment in such a short amount of time. Two years ago, Dr. Bridges and I co-chaired the department’s Technology Standing Committee. A year before, she chaired and served on two search advisory hiring committees (PEDL and Reading) with me. A year before that, she joined the MS/MEd graduate program as a faculty member teaching one course a semester for the programs and taking on additional graduate students as the department experienced faculty turnover. Though she is based off-campus, she has always been present in department meetings and has served on a variety of standing and *ad hoc* committees.

Dr. Bridges has also provided service to the university. She has been working on making connections with universities across Minnesota and internationally, for partnerships. Recently Dr. Bridges has identified a media program at St. Cloud State University that could partner with FasTrack; an international collaborative possibility with China (in teacher education); and, community college partners to provide content courses for the DLiTE and FasTrack programs.

These are just a few of the activities I have known Dr. Bridges to lead, coordinate, or participate in, and her dedication and service to Bemidji State University are quite evident through these efforts. Her guidance and leadership, as one of the few remaining veteran faculty members in the department, has been noticed and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Urban, Ph.D.

Associate Professor