



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH
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March 14, 2011

Dear CAS Executive Committee:

It is my pleasure to recommend Janet Haley, Assistant Professor of Theatre, for tenure at the University of Michigan-Flint. Janet has done an exemplary job of merging her teaching, research, and service efforts. In so doing, her work increased the visibility of our campus within the Flint community and helped UM-Flint achieve national recognition through the Carnegie Classification for Civic Engagement.

When the Genesee County Historical Society approached Janet with a request to create an educational theatrical tour of Flint's historic Glenwood Cemetery inspired by local history, she crafted the *Glen-Wood: Restoration of Spirit* Project into an experiential learning exercise for students in *Devising Theatre* and other courses. She also seamlessly wove the project into her research agenda, by using the project as a case study to inform her discipline and fill gaps in the literature related to the role of site-specific performance in community building and reaching across the space-time divide.

Janet's project made a direct and profound impact on UM-Flint as an institution and in her department. Since the project embodied the best of UM-Flint academic scholarship, research, service, and engaged citizenship, it was featured prominently in UM-Flint's application for the 2010 Carnegie Elective Classification for Civic Engagement, for which UM-Flint was one of only 115 higher education institutions across the United States selected for this prestigious classification. *Restoration of Spirit* was highlighted four times in the application, including as one of the fifteen partnerships described in great detail. I am convinced that the *Restoration of Spirit* partnership was critical for documenting and illustrating UM-Flint's institutional commitment to civic engagement.

The *Restoration of Spirit* production became a new special feature in the Theatre Department's season calendar. By finding a cost-neutral way to include the additional production in the performance schedule, Janet paved the way for making this innovative, community-engaged type of theatre an annual UM-Flint offering. As part of her research process, Janet is developing a "Theatre in Community" template for direct application in the MLS Theatre and Community degree program. Due to the scholarly rigor and collaborative nature of the project, the UM-Ann Arbor Arts of Citizenship Program awarded \$11,000 to the project, making Janet the first UM-Flint faculty member to be awarded this competitive grant. I was so impressed by the thoughtful process and products of *Restoration of Spirit* that I invited Janet and her community partners to share their insights with other faculty, and they presented as part of the Winter 2010 Public Scholarship Workshop Series.

I applaud Janet Haley's achievements and highly endorse her bid for tenure. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (810) 424-5481 or myounis@umflint.edu.

Sincerely,

Mona Younis
University Outreach Project Coordinator