

April 15, 2005

RE: Susan Elizabeth Allred (Beth)

Beth Allred has been employed with the School of Nursing (SON) as a Graduate Assistant for the past two years. I am delighted to provide an evaluation of her service to the faculty, students, and staff. Ms. Allred is a vital member of the professional team in the SON. She works diligently with faculty and students in facilitating the integration of online/web-based teaching/learning methods in the curriculum.

In support of faculty, Ms. Allred has conducted group and individualized faculty development workshops on the use of the WebCT platform; designing exams and grade calculation mechanisms; using interactive media; and other technical support for online instruction. She is readily accessible to faculty to trouble shoot and resolve problems to positively impact the teaching/learning experience. Beth is not merely expert in using technology, but she approaches problem-solving through the critical analysis of both the technical requirements and the pedagogical implications. Faculty consistently reports that Beth has been instrumental in the success experienced by faculty and students in advancing technology as an instructional standard.

Beth works well with students. She brings a unique perspective in that she, herself is a Master's students. She is; however, able to maintain the professional behaviors that allow students to view her as an expert with valuable skills, knowledge, and competencies. She is available to students through every conceivable means, e.g., in-person, by email, by phone, etc. Students find her approachable and describe her as a vital resource in helping them to adapt to the variety of technologic tools needed to be successful in the online environment.

Beth is consistently reliable, dependable, and initiating. She appears almost by "magic" when there is a need, even when the need has not been articulated. She monitors the online courses, anticipates issues and begins to problem-solve. She responds to queries in timely manner and always with a positive, "can-do" attitude. She demonstrates an ability to manage her time, commitments, and responsibilities with poise and confidence.

One can present an idea or concept and Beth immediately begins to provide draft documents, recommendations for creating the project, and technical and pedagogical approaches to achieve the desired educational focus. Ms. Allred is the ideal partner in the educational enterprise. She is expert in the practical implementation and mastery of technology. She is an exemplary employee, colleague, and member of the educational team.

While we applaud her academic achievement, congratulate her on her professional advancement, we regret that she must leave us. Thank you for the opportunity to address the attributions and contributions of this talented, articulate, resourceful, and collegial professional.

Sincerely,

Bettie J. Glenn, RN, EdD  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs