



December 7, 2010

Harold W. Kohl, Ph.D.

University of Texas School of Public Health

Dear Dr. Kohl:

I am pleased to write this letter in evaluation of Christine Markham's application for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure in your department. As a Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia, I have known of Dr. Markham's work, though we have not interacted on any formal projects during that time. Based on my own knowledge of Dr. Markham's published work, as well as a thorough review of the materials that you forwarded to me, I feel confident in providing a strong recommendation in favor of Dr. Markham's promotion.

It is my opinion that Dr. Markham is becoming one of the strong young figures in the study of adolescent risk behavior and interventions to alter this behavior. In particular, Dr. Markham has performed and is performing very strong, rigorous, community-based research on the psychosocial correlates of adolescent health behavior. She has identified risk and protective factors related to adolescent sexual risk-taking, ranging from parent-child relationships to stigma issues, to adolescent self-efficacy. In an area—adolescent sexual relationships—that some might think of as fundamentally irrational and erratic, Dr. Markham's work has advanced the field greatly in showing lawful connections of behavior in this domain to other important aspects of adolescent development. Her use of longitudinal, multi-reporter and multi-method, and highly theoretically driven approaches to research have been a trademark of her work in this area, which set her work apart from much of the work that preceded it.


Dr. Markham's publication record, given this innovative and productive line of research, is quite strong. She has actively published in strong journals in the field, both taking the lead on publications and collaborating with others to produce a large number of solid empirical reports.

Similarly, Dr. Markham's record of obtaining outside funding is *extremely* strong given the relatively early stage of her career development. She has been engaged in *multiple* funded studies that are likely to produce important further knowledge in her areas of pursuit. Her track record with grants is one that would be more expected of a full professor than of a relatively new investigator.

In sum, I believe Dr. Markham's record to date clearly puts her near the top of her cohort—I certainly know of no other researchers at her stage who are conducting such innovative, broadly relevant research, using sophisticated methodologies and quickly turning the results into published work in the top journals in the field. I strongly suspect her career will continue on its steep upward trajectory from here.

If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. My vitae also is enclosed as you requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph P. Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'A'.

Joseph P. Allen, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology