October 31, 2021

Faculty of Graduate Studies University of Victoria

RE: Letter of support for Colin Madland for 2021-2023 BCcampus Research Fellowship.

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for Colin Madland in his applicaiton to the BCcampus Research Fellowship program for 2021-2023. Colin is a mature student who is working full-time, raising a family, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Educational Technology area of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Victoria. Colin's planned research focus is assessment and evaluation practices in online learning. I strongly believe Colin is exceptional across all the criteria for this competition, namely: his record of awards, scholarships and grants; his contributions to the scholarly community through knowledge mobilization, publications, and community-engaged scholarship; and his service to the educational technology community.

Awards, Scholarships, & Grants

Since joining the University of Victoria, Colin has earned a GPA of 8.75 in his doctoral program. Colin has been awarded a UVic graduate student scholarships of $5000 each in each of his two years of study (totaling $10,000). His application to the University of Victoria was strengthened by his academic achievements as a Masters student at Athabasca University which culminated with him being nominated for and receiving the Athabasca University Tim Byrne Memorial Scholarship ($1000) for academic excellence along with an outstanding thesis or project in June 2014. During his time at Thompson Rivers University, he was awarded $5000 from the TRU Open Learning Presentation Fund and was an Open Education Resources Research Fellow ($5000 USD). In total he has been awarded over $21,800. Colin has a consistent pattern of achievement and is unwavering in his work ethic. He ranks in the top 1% for academic communication, critical thinking, and research abilities. Colin completed his candidacy in the summer of 2021.

Knowledge Mobilization, Publications, & Community-Engaged Scholarship

Colin's research is significant as it focuses on the intersection of faculty assessment practices and what researchers know about the measurement of student learning, an area which has come under increased scrutiny as universities have been forced by SARS-CoV-2 to shift to offering learning in online and other remote modalities. Colin's research will seek to understand the nature of assessment practices and provide recommendations for increasing their reliability in light of research from the field of measurement and evaluation. Colin has one peer-reviewed journal article, 10 peer-reviewed national and international conference presentations (e.g., AERA, CSSHE and OTESSA at Congress, International Council on Distance

Education, Association for Learning Technologies, Open Education Conference), plus 18 professional higher education conferences. He is an active reviewer of peer-reviewed journal submissions in the field of open and online learning.

Service to the Community and/or Professional Activities and Affiliations

In addition to his academic success, Colin has been a practitioner in the educational technology community and has been very active in presenting at regional, national, and international conferences. Much of his work has been focused on the use of open education resources (OER) in higher education with a strong emphasis on increasing access to higher education for people who might otherwise be unable to participate. Colin is well-respected in the educational technology community in British Columbia and his most recent position, as Manager of Online Learning and Instructional Technologies at Trinity Western University (TWU), is focused on leading TWU in the development of a robust, flexible, and extensible technological infrastructure to support the differentiated dissemination of course materials to diverse international branch campuses of TWU. Under Colin's leadership, his team was recognized with a Team Award for their work assisting the campus pivot to remote learning.

Colin goes out of his way to provide collegial support for other Ph.D. and M.A. students and sessional instructors in our area. He is very collaborative in approaching his work and has extended this into support for the broader UVic community through three presentations in the "Let's Talk about Teaching" conference offered through Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI) in August 2020 and Spetember 2021. Colin has taught multiple high-enrolment sections of EDCI 335 and EDCI 339 as a sessional instructor at UVic.

Additionally, he is a founding board member and the chair of the graduate student committee of Open/Technology in Education, Society, and Scholarship Association (OTESSA), the newly formed scholarly association that is a member of the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Canada. He was a key support as co-chair of the inaugural OTESSA Conference at Congress, which pivoted to a flexible format due to COVID-19 with an emphasis on asynchronous presentations and publication of conference proceedings/full papers. He was also part of the communications committee in creating this organization dedicated to bringing together researchers, practitioners, and administrators in the field of educational technology and open education/scholarship. Previously, he served two years as a board member representing researchers of the Canadian Network for Innovation in Education (CNIE).

In closing, I strongly endorse Colin for the BCcampus Research Fellowship and hope the selection committee1' can support him as he moves into the dissertation portion of his program. He is an exceptional student and I cannot overstate how deserving he is of this scholarship.

Sincerely,

Dr. Valerie Irvine Co-Director, TIE Research Lab Department of Curriculum and Instruction