



Sherilyn Tejada Martinez

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It is my pleasure to write this letter of support of Dr. Laura Grabowski's promotion. My name is Sherilyn Tejada Martinez, Class of 2019 and currently working as a Senior Systems Engineer at Lockheed Martin. This letter is based on multiple interactions I've had with Dr. Laura Grabowski as a former student, an ACM leader, and a Board of Advisors member.

Dr. Laura Grabowski is both a motivating and inspiring professor, who goes above and beyond to make sure her students are understanding the material and be as successful as possible in her classes. For example, with CS 203 class being one of the toughest courses in the degree and a deciding factor for most students to continue the major, she uses PowerPoint slides that allowed a quick flow of information in a short amount of time. Then, following up with a step-by-step demonstration on a whiteboard tailored to students live questions and comments. Thus, ensuring that all her lectures were paced appropriately while also encouraging students to ask questions. This fostered a safe environment for active learning that you normally don't experience in other classrooms.

On the other hand, Dr. Laura Grabowski is always available to her students when needed and provides a helping hand even outside of the classroom. For example, she maintains an open-door policy in which students can come into her office and ask any questions they may have. I remember countless moments in which I was having trouble on an assignment and Dr. Laura Grabowski would go the extra mile to make sure I understood not only the assignment but also the topic in which the assignment is based on. Thus, motivating me as a student to continue to work hard knowing I have the support I needed.

In addition, I was also an ACM leader during my junior and senior year. Dr. Laura Grabowski was an active faculty member in our ACM student chapter. She always ensured that the students within our chapter had everything we needed in order to host events such as Hack Potsdam and IBM's Master the Mainframe. Even has helped in increasing membership by providing students extra credit when attending an ACM event that focuses on career development and any alumni presentations.

Furthermore, as I am currently a Board of Advisors member, I really see how much Dr. Laura Grabowski cares for the Computer Science Department. She constantly goes over the curriculum to ensure the students are receiving the best education possible at SUNY Potsdam. Even has undergone changes to introduce two new concentration tracks, Cyber Security and Data Science, as an effort to attract more students to both SUNY Potsdam and more importantly the Computer Science Department. Dr. Laura Grabowski works extra twice a year to host the Board of Advisors meeting in the Fall and Spring Semester. Undergoes scheduling and putting together multiple events in order to address any questions the Board may have, introduce students to board members in order to provide networking opportunities for her students, and collect any new information from board members on currently changes undergoing in the tech industry that would be beneficial to incorporate into the curriculum. This is in effort to make sure her students are job ready once they complete their degrees.

To summarize, Dr. Laura Grabowski was a big part of my undergraduate career. With me being a former student, ACM Leader and BOA board member, she provided vast knowledge and inspiration that was a very motivating for countless of students within the Computer Science Department.

Sincerely,
Sherilyn Tejada Martinez,
BA, Class of 2019