UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

December 20, 2011

Dear Graduate Admissions Committee,

I am pleased to write a letter of support for Maggie McHugh as she seeks to be admitted into the Doctoral Degree Program in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction. Maggie's background makes her a great fit for this progran. I have known her since 2003 when she was a student in the Math department. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to work with her in a number of settings.

The need for quality tutor support in mathematics courses is on the rise nationally. The NSF has noted that the success (or lack of success) in the first mathematics course is a factor that may impact retention or degree and career decisions. As a member of the staff in a TRiO funded program, Maggie is well aware of these facts and works tirelessly to ensure that her students succeed. She has developed into a first-rate tutor/student mentor and has been sought out by others to provide instruction in the areas of mathematics and English. While her primary role is to help support degree seeking students, many of whom are taking lower level math courses, she actually works with a wider range of students than is seen in a typical tutor center. Her impact on campus, in fact, has grown to the point where she is now asked to interact with students at each point in the student "funnel", from pre-college programs like Upward Bound to the graduate school-bound students in the McNair program.

Educating students is a collaborative effort involving advisers, instructors, tutors, and other support personnel. Maggie is very collaborative in her current role and has taken the lead on other projects. The book *Ka's Garden/Kab Lub Vaj: A Bilingual Children's Book* is a great example. This project involved many people and brought together a few of her passions; education, art, numbers, and languages. This book was a truly impressive collaborative project from beginning to end.

In the past few years, I have had an opportunity to work with Maggie on a number of learning

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material development projects, most of which involve appropriate uses of technology. She has led teams to develop learning tools and has helped to study the impact on student learning that these tools provide. We have presented together at local, regional and national conferences. All of the presentations have been well received, and the number of institutions that are adopting our materials (and material development processes) continues to rise. The projects are team-based and Maggie has been a key member of the team. Many of the projects are grant-funded, and Maggie's role in writing the proposals and securing the funding has continued to rise. She is productive, easy to work with, and very organized. On the projects that I have led, she has exceeded my expectations, enhanced the quality of the research, and played a vital role in the dissemination. She communicates well and has exhibited leadership qualities that will be useful in her future (both in the graduate program and beyond).

Maggie McHugh will be a great graduate student, and I encourage the committee to admit her into your program. I give her my highest level of recommendation. Please let me know if you need more information.

Sincerely,

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