

From: Douglas Armstead, Chair of the Physics Department

To: Karen Downey, Chair of the Math-Science Sub-School Personnel Committee

Re: Continuing Appointment Recommendation for Dr. Eric Edlund

Date: March 4, 2022

I have reviewed the materials submitted by Dr. Eric Edlund in his application for continuing appointment as Associate Professor in the Department of Physics as well as the letter from the Physics Department Personnel Committee (DPC). After considering these materials in the context of the department personnel policies and the college handbook I am pleased to recommend Dr. Edlund for continuing appointment.

In his successful review last year for promotion to Associate Professor I discussed his effectiveness in teaching. There I emphasized the growth he showed as an educator through his Statement of Teaching Philosophy, the effort he puts into designing and supporting his class, his efforts to solicit input from faculty from a diverse cross-section of the College of Arts and Sciences, and his treatment of students with mutual respect. I see this trend continuing. As one piece of evidence I would put forward the introductory physics course (PHY105) that he taught Fall 2021. There he team taught a course with two other physics faculty members in the second run of an experiment in team teaching. He reflects on the experiment, explicitly addressing both the benefits (e.g., supporting materials for students, professional development, close faculty collaboration, and uniformity of expectations) and the liabilities of the approach in an earnest way. His understanding clearly draws on a variety of sources including student feedback on the course (even going so far as to interview students after the course was completed to better understand their perspectives, experiences, and study habits). I would also like to share words from an Intermediate Lab student: "...its been an honor working with Dr. Edlund for 3 years...he was not one of my favorite professors at the beginning, but now I can see that he was asking for the best from his students and that has made me a better physicist and person". I think that this cuts to the core of the kind of educator that Dr. Edlund aims to be.

As the DPC note, Dr. Edlund's scholarship is exemplary. Exemplary in terms of productivity, inclusion of undergraduates, and connecting to his teaching. The DPC focused on the first two so I will point out on the last that his orbital analysis paper is inspired by work he did for a Mechanics course, and that his experience as an active experimental physicist clearly informs his approach to Intermediate Lab.

Finally, when it comes to service, the sustained efforts in support of the physics department, college, and greater scientific community that he documented in his promotion materials continues unabated. As the DPC notes Dr. Edlund has seen curricular changes through to completion and taken on the role of chair of the Educations Policy Committee. I would also like to commend him for taking a deep dive to try to better understand various thorny issues that get in the way of meaningful student learning.

I once again find that Dr. Edlund has been effective in his time at Cortland and in light of the substantial record he has shared through his portfolio I recommend that he be granted continuing appointment on the faculty at SUNY Cortland.

Sincerely,



Douglas Armstead

Physics Department Chair

SUNY Cortland

Dear Professor [Name],

Thank you for your letter of the 12th of [Month] regarding [Topic].

The University Assistant Professor position for [Year]

Dear [Name],

I have reviewed the materials submitted by you for the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics at SUNY Cortland. I am pleased to inform you that your application has been successful and you have been selected for the position. We are excited to have you join our faculty and contribute to our department's research and teaching efforts.

The position is a full-time, tenure-track position. You will be responsible for teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as conducting research in the field of [Field]. We are particularly interested in your work on [Specific Research Area]. We believe your expertise and experience make you an excellent candidate for this position. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. We are committed to providing a supportive and collaborative work environment. We look forward to your arrival on campus and to working with you on our shared goals. Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information. We are excited to have you join our team.

As the [Title], I will be responsible for [Responsibilities]. We are committed to providing a supportive and collaborative work environment. We look forward to your arrival on campus and to working with you on our shared goals. Please contact me if you have any questions or need further information. We are excited to have you join our team.

Very truly yours,
[Signature]

[Name]
[Title]

[Signature]