



December 1, 2025

Dear Colleagues:

It is with pleasure that I submit my recommendation for Suzanne Nielsen's promotion to full professor here at Metro State University. I have come to know Suzanne's deep commitment to the Creative Writing program since 2024 when the program was reorganized and combined with the Academic Writing & Reading and Literature and Language departments. Since then, I have worked closely with Suzanne who is serving as the Creative Writing program coordinator and can speak to her fulfillment of Criterion III: Evidence of Continuing Preparation and Study.

As her narrative and evidence reflects, Suzanne has engaged in on-going preparation and study of creative writing including engaged reading and consideration of new texts for course adoptions. She has regularly attended workshops at the Loft Literary Center, and The Believer Magazine, including attendance at Free Friday Night Comics Workshops online. She has also studied new literature to include in her courses.

Her evidence shows a regular pattern of preparation aimed at staying current in topics pertaining to teaching creative writing and drawing new ideas for the classroom. Professor Nielsen familiarizes herself with student services, university policies, financial aid opportunities, all to better support student education. This is especially valuable for those from under-served communities and consistent with the anti-racism mission at Metro.

Suzanne's commitment to the creative writing program is recognized by many of her colleagues within the department and in the College of Liberal Arts. Suzanne has also sought consultation with me and others to craft the Creative Writing Program's Annual Reflections (PAR) as well as working on articulation agreements with local community colleges (i.e. agreement with Anoka-Ramsey Community College finalized in Fall 2025), which are challenging tasks for anyone new to these administrative processes. Still, Suzanne is unwaveringly dedicated to learning whatever administrative responsibilities support her academic program and the students that are central to her work. Her record exemplifies a fulfillment of Criterion III.

Without hesitation, I highly recommend Professor Suzanne Nielsen for promotion to full professor. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Julie.kae@metrostate.edu

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Julie Kae".

H. Julie Kae
Associate Professor and Department Chair
Writing, Literature, and Language Department