

Dr. Kristan Morrison, Chair
Faculty Awards Committee

February 14, 2017

Dear Dr. Morrison and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering my nomination for the Radford University Foundation's Distinguished Service Award. The original nomination and the appended letters, written on my behalf by respected supervisors and valued colleagues, program hosts, and collaborators best represent the impact my service-related activities have had on the English Department, the Appalachian Studies program, CHBS and CEHD, Radford University, the Appalachian Studies Association, and our region. These letters describe projects, programs, and publications their authors view as meaningful and enduring contributions, direct and indirect, to the Radford University community. This narrative addresses smaller contributions, individually minor, but collectively significant in the variety and number of services provided to a wide range of communities and audiences on and off the Radford University campus over more than twenty-five years.

University Internal Governance: Instructors with non-terminal degrees are ineligible for promotion or tenure; hence opportunities and expectations for service in internal governance are limited. I have served on the English Department *Curriculum Committee* and the *Highland Summer Conference Committee* (1990-present) and have represented the Appalachian Studies Program on *search committees* for McConnell Library (2015) and Student Activities (2014), and served on the *CEHD Teaching Award Committee* and *Scholarly Activity Award Committee*. I am the *Equipment Liaison* and *CORE Assessment Coordinator* for Appalachian Studies and have been a non-voting member of the *Selu Conservancy Steering Committee* from its inception. I also review applications for RU Foundation Scholarships (AASIS, Edwards, Middleton, Dowdy) with an Appalachian Studies emphasis.

Student Organization Advisor: I have been the sponsor/advisor for the *Radford University Clogging Club* since it was organized in 1998 and was faculty advisor/sponsor of the *RU Bluegrass Club* 1996-98. My 30+ years of involvement with the *Appalachian Events Committee*, an all-campus programming board that raises awareness of Appalachian culture, is described in supporting materials.

Special Department, College or University programs: I have given guest lectures, readings and/or musical performances in numerous individual classes for colleagues in the departments of Anthropology and Sociology; Biology; Counselor Education; Education (EDEF, EDUC); English; History; Human Development; Music; Recreation, Parks, and Tourism; Social Work, and New Student Programs (UNIV 100). I have collaborated on research projects with faculty and students in ANTH 411 and 493, and mentored ENGL Senior Seminar students. I have given presentations and workshops at conferences and seminars offered by the Department of Psychology, School of Nursing, School of Social Work, School of Teacher Education and Leadership, Summer Bridge, and Waldron College. At the University level I have given presentations and workshops for the Division of Student Affairs, Faculty Development Center (Our Turn, New Faculty Orientation), Governor's School for the Humanities, Honors Program/Academy, McConnell Library, National Collegiate Honors Council, New Student Programs; Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Scholar Citizen Initiative, and Student Life.

Activities directly related to Selu Conservancy: I have had the privilege of being involved with the Selu Conservancy since its donation by the Bowles family in 1989. For *The Year of Corn and Culture, 1996-1997*, which coincided with the dedication of the Selu Retreat Center, I helped create exhibits, including an on-campus garden; led Selu Conservancy tours; helped organize a year-long series of guest lectures; and, worked with the Honors Program to coordinate a two-semester, multi-course focus and a concluding symposium. As the Coordinator of the Farm at Selu I helped create and implement a

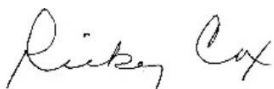
plan for a living history site which interprets life in rural southwestern Virginia in the 1930's. I have collaborated with faculty and students in HUMD 300; MATH 315; NURS 451, and RCPT 325 (see appended documents) and given farmhouse tours for APST 200; BIOL 215; EDUC 425, 430; ENGL 446; International Student Services; RU Language and Culture Institute; Nursing 444; RCPT 431; Summer Bridge, UNIV 100; and Waldron College (international visitors). With help from non-student volunteers I've given tours for dozens of off-campus groups (public schools, home schools, families, church groups, etc.) and have trained student volunteers in HUMD 300 and RCPT 325 to give tours to more than a thousand public school students. (See supporting documents re tours, training volunteers, designing and furnishing the reconstructed farmhouse, and creating interpretive guides).

Student recruitment: The grant-funded Appalachian Arts and Studies in the Schools (AASIS) Outreach program partners RU student mentors with local high schools and brings 120-140 potential first-generation college students to the Radford campus twice each year. I was an original co-coordinator of the program (1996-97) and continue to play a supporting role in the program's 20th year.

Promotion of positive alumni relations: I have had the pleasure of giving Selu Farmhouse tours and after-dinner programs for several class reunion groups; several have donated items to the Farm at Selu. I have been actively involved with the annual Appalachian Folk Arts Festival, a popular component of Fall Homecoming/Family Weekend, since co-founding the event as a student co-chair of the Appalachian Events Committee in 1986. This event features local crafters and musicians.

Service to the external community: The original and enduring purpose of Radford University is to serve our community, city, region, and state, by educating teachers and professionals, as well as through the University's own active support of the educational and cultural programming of other schools; of governmental bodies; and of professional, civic, and social organizations. Over the years I have served as a competition judge for a variety of public school programs, been involved in mentoring programs through K12-university partnerships, and been a featured speaker at conferences sponsored by organizations such as the Giles County Community Health Network, US Forest Service, US Park Service, VA Assoc. of Teachers of English, VA Collegiate Honors Council, and VA Foundation for the Humanities. I have given lectures and performances at post-secondary schools such as Averett University, Bluefield College (WV), multiple VA Community Colleges, Surry Community College (NC), and Virginia Tech; at churches; at public libraries; and at numerous elementary, middle, and high schools in at least ten school systems in Virginia and North Carolina. Other service includes radio and television appearances focused on Appalachian studies; historical tours; consulting for Explore Park (Roanoke, VA) and the Wilderness Road Regional Museum; and demonstrating local material culture and processes at the Ferrum Folklife Festival and at various town, county, and local festivals. My service to civic organizations in Floyd County is detailed in a supporting letter. Other significant service to a larger community includes two books. *A Handbook to Appalachia, An Introduction to the Region* (UT Press, 2006) coedited with RU colleagues Grace Toney Edwards and JoAnn Asbury has sold over 7,000 copies and is in use in university and high school classrooms region-wide. *The Water-Powered Mills of Floyd County, VA: Illustrated Histories, 1770-2010* (McFarland, 2012) co-written with Franklin F. Webb, led to my receiving the CEHD Scholarly Activity Award in 2012-13. My service to the Appalachian region was recognized in 2014 with the Appalachian Studies Association's first annual *Stephen Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching Appalachian Studies*.

Thank you for your consideration,



Ricky Cox
Instructor of English and Appalachian Studies