



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Davis College

Landscape Architecture™

May 16, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for Senior Lecturer & Assistant Department Chair Kathryn Nelson – Davis College Teaching Award

Dear Davis College Teaching Award Committee:

I am writing to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Senior Lecturer & Assistant Department Chair Kathryn Nelson for the prestigious Davis College Teaching Award. As the Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Texas Tech University, I have had the privilege of working with and observing Senior Lecturer Nelson excel as a dedicated faculty member and an exceptional educator. Her outstanding teaching skills, commitment to student learning, and valuable contributions to the profession of landscape architecture make her a deserving candidate for this recognition.

Senior Lecturer Nelson has consistently demonstrated teaching excellence in various capacities within our department. Her ability to engage students at different levels of understanding is truly remarkable. Whether teaching introductory courses to students new to landscape architecture or delivering online instruction to large cohorts, she consistently receives exceptionally high teaching evaluations from her students. These evaluations are a testament to her effectiveness in facilitating meaningful learning experiences, fostering critical thinking, and inspiring a passion for landscape architecture. Senior Lecturer Nelson's teaching style and expertise have distinguished her from her peers. The online course she developed has grown to be the largest course offered by the department every semester. Furthermore, during our recent accreditation visit, the accreditation team remarked on how many comments they received from students supporting her efforts and contributions to the department.

I emphasize Senior Lecturer Nelson's dedication to continuously improving her teaching practices. Her research in specification grading is directly connected to her teaching philosophy, demonstrating her commitment to innovative pedagogical approaches. By exploring new methods and strategies, she ensures that her students receive the highest quality education that aligns with the evolving needs and demands of the profession.

Beyond her exceptional teaching abilities, Senior Lecturer Nelson has made noteworthy contributions beyond our institution. She has actively participated in conferences and workshops as a presenter and attendee to stay current with the latest developments in landscape architecture education. Her engagement with the wider academic community enriches her knowledge and enables her to bring valuable perspectives and best practices back to our department and institution.

In conclusion, Senior Lecturer Nelson is an outstanding educator, an inspiration to her students, and a valued faculty member. Her unwavering commitment to teaching excellence, combined with her research endeavors and contributions to the field, make her an ideal candidate for the Davis College Teaching Award. Thank you for considering this nomination. Should you require any further information or supporting materials, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Leehu Loon, ASLA, PLA
Chair and Professor
Department of Landscape Architecture
Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Texas Tech University