



PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

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May 13, 2015

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

I am very pleased to provide a letter of support for the nomination of Dr. Charles Connerly for the 2015 Michael J. Brody Award. Dr. Connerly has been affiliated with the Public Policy Center (PPC) since he was hired to be the Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning in August of 2008. Since his arrival at the University of Iowa, he has built an impressive record of service to the university's internal and external constituents.

The Public Policy Center has benefitted directly from Dr. Connerly's contributions to further the PPC's mission of providing policymakers and the public with information to make our lives and communities thrive in sustainable ways through academic research. Since 2008, he has been a member of the PPC Executive Committee, the body that advises on the overall vision for the center, the development of strategic goals, and the evaluation of existing efforts. He has also been a big supporter and contributor to our community engagement events. The School of Urban and Regional Planning has been a co-sponsor for the vast majority of these events due to the value that Dr. Connerly places on sharing the expertise of the University with policymakers and the public.

Indirectly related to the PPC is the way Dr. Connerly changed the emphasis of the major projects undertaken by the students in the School of Urban and Regional Planning, many who were also graduate research assistants at the PPC, to better emphasize the value that the University can have in helping to plan initiatives in cities and towns in Iowa. The impact that these student projects have on cities such as Dubuque and Muscatine is very significant and provides a lasting image of a University that cares about the citizens of the state.

From a University perspective, one of his notable service contributions is the founding of The Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) in 2009. The IISC is a campus-wide effort at the University of Iowa to enhance the capacity of Iowa's communities to be more sustainable. Partnering with Iowa's urban and rural communities, the IISC identifies projects that address the economic, environmental, and socio-cultural issues they face to build a more sustainable community. The IISC matches community needs with the expertise and resources of the University of Iowa faculty and students, and continuously adds new faculty and courses to the initiative. This project demonstrates Dr. Connerly's ability to use his imagination to solve problems and his commitment to serving the broader community.

In addition to these two examples, his full record of service includes a variety of university committee's that further UI's mission, most recently including the Smart Communities Committee (2014), the Grant Wood Art Colony Executive Director Search (2014), the Pentacrest Museums

Task Force (2012-2013), and the Obermann Graduate Institute on Public Engagement and the Academy (2011-2013). He has served in various roles in the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, including serving as the President from 2009-2011. He has also been appointed on several state-level bodies including the Iowa Smart Planning Task Force and the Building and Vertical Infrastructure Sector Committee. This is by no means an exhaustive list of his service contributions, but I hope it has provided you with a sense of his commitment to serving the university and the state of Iowa.

As Director of the center, I am honored to have him appointed at the PPC and proud to support his exemplary service efforts on behalf of the center and university. Thank you for considering Dr. Connerly for this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Damiano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Damiano
Professor and Director