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STIÚRTHÓIR & DÉAN - COLÁISTE NA HINNEALTÓIREACHTA & TIMPEALLACHTA TÓGTHA:  
DIRECTOR & DEAN - COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & BUILT ENVIRONMENT:  
Dr Mike Murphy BSc(Eng), Dip Eng, MEng, PhD, CEng, FIEI

11 October 2013

Dr Pamela Hammond  
Provost  
Hampton University  
Hampton, VA 23668

Dear Dr Hammond

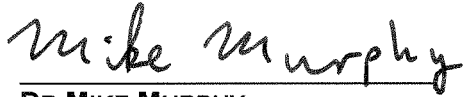
I am very pleased to write this reference letter for Dr Shannon Chance's application for promotion at Hampton University. I have known Dr Chance since September 2012 when she joined the DIT Engineering Education Research Group (EERG) as a Fulbright Scholar funded by College of Engineering & Built Environment (DIT), the Council for International Exchange of Scholar, and the Fulbright Commission in Ireland. Since then, Dr Chance and members of EERG have been working and collaborating on a number of research projects and initiatives with particular focus on a hermeneutic phenomenology study of the use of learning groups, an improvement of engineering students' design skills in a project-based learning course and identity, diversity and outreach issues in engineering education. As a result of this fruitful collaborative work, Dr Chance, I and other colleagues of the EERG are co-authors of a number of conference papers, e.g. the Annual Conference of the European Society for Engineering Education – SEFI in 2012 and 2013, an invited peer-reviewed paper in a forthcoming special issue of the Journal of Engineering Education as well as a book chapter on engineering identity. Of equal significance is that her examination of learning groups within our College has resulted in a greater understanding by us of their effectiveness in helping faculty adapt their pedagogical approach to improve student learning.

I have become very familiar with Dr Chance's research projects, and have witnessed her professional approach, attitude, dedication and incredibly fast progress in her work and can unequivocally confirm that she is a very strong candidate with potential for high scientific achievements. Dr Chance has been establishing a new focus in engineering education research and has already gained extensive experience in qualitative research as an interviewer, skilful focused group facilitator and project manager, who can assess and organise resources, communicate with stakeholders, build contacts and networks and disseminate research outcomes.

She is able to work methodically and is target-oriented, employing rigorous scientific procedures and solving problems encountered quickly and effectively. Moreover, due to my academic experience as a founder and host of six US scholars (five through the Fulbright Commission program), I am able to compare her research skillfulness and problem-solving ability and I can confirm that Dr. Chance is talented, creative, proactive, self-motivated, ambitious, reliable and dedicated to achieving excellence as a researcher. She works hard and has steadily improved her professional credentials and expertise in the field of engineering education and pedagogy. Most of all, I would like to confirm that Dr. Chance has proven herself to be an honest and genuine researcher with very good work ethic.

It is my sincere belief that when her academic record, impact through her scholarship of learning, discovery and engagement, professional standing, including her education are examined closely, you will find that Dr Chance fulfils the criteria for promotion to their fullest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**DR MIKE MURPHY**

**DIRECTOR & DEAN – COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & BUILT ENVIRONMENT**