

April 15, 2025

Textbook and Academic Authors Association
Awards Committee
215 N. Fair Oaks Ave. #438
Madison, WI 53714

Dear Awards Committee Members,

I am writing to nominate Christine Harrington, PhD for the **TAA Author Mentoring Award**.

Christine Harrington, the author of 11 books about teaching and learning, three of which include the voices of 50 college students to illustrate engaging practices in higher education, is a consummate mentor. She generously shares the knowledge of idea generation, writing, and the publishing process that she has accumulated over the years as an author with her students and colleagues. Dr. Harrington is committed to bringing diverse, underrepresented voices from within the ranks of higher education into practical yet scholarly works to support student success through improved teaching.

For the 2024 book, *Creating Culturally Affirming and Meaningful Assignments*, Dr. Harrington served as editor for 14 authors of 8 chapters and 23 additional contributors of brief examples from the field. From conceptualization to printing, she fostered a creative community of practitioners, leaders, and higher education advocates to produce a highly useful publication that was delivered according to plan and on schedule.

Dr. Harrington's mentorship about authoring (and successful engagement as higher education practitioners) shines through everything she does, from sharing information about publication opportunities to providing feedback on drafts, to encouraging an extra bit of effort to bring writing from good to better.

Dr. Harrington has been a writing mentor to me since 2020, when I was her student in the Community College Leadership doctoral program at New Jersey City University. During the program, she invited several students to co-author an article about student and faculty perspectives on the online EdD program for *Impacting Education*. As we were all first time authors, Dr. Harrington met with our group several times during the development process and presented approaches to effective academic writing as well as how to understand the focus and scope, and peer review process of the journal.

For the *Creating Culturally Affirming and Meaningful Assignments* book, Dr. Harrington held several author meetings to discuss the concept and goals of the book, potential topics, and structure of the chapters. She asked the authors for input on decisions such as using vignettes for chapter openings, and adding reflection questions for readers. She also met with me and other authors individually to discuss our drafts, ask questions, and provide guidance. She provided

feedback using the same principles she describes in her books and presentations, by respectfully guiding with clear and actionable comments and questions. Because several of the authors and I were contributing to a book for the first time, Dr. Harrington's support enabled us to learn and grow through the writing process.

Dr. Harrington continues to support me with feedback on my writing and guidance about researching and contacting potential journals. Her nurturing and mentorship of students and colleagues as writers supports meaningful publications that champion equity and student success in higher education.

Sincerely,

Ellen Wasserman, EdD
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