



*The College Of*

**WILLIAM & MARY**

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Dear Jefferson Award committee,

This letter is to support the nomination of Dr. Kyung Hee Kim for the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award. I have known and worked with Dr. Kim for the past year on several writing and research projects and have observed her work with students as well. It is my pleasure to support her nomination for this prestigious award.

Dr. Kim in one short year here at William and Mary has done more than most professors to energize her students to perform at the highest level at which they are capable, to infuse a strong motivation to learn in some and for others to provide the support so valued by students when taking a course they are terrified of doing poorly in. She has risen to the challenge of moving her students from a naïve level in research toward becoming more expert in critiquing others' designs as well as creating their own. Each student has left her classes feeling more competent to conduct research than when she entered. In my view, this is no small feat.

She also has done so with the distinction of being the first Korean professor on campus. While her cultural background is a positive force in her teaching, providing students with an excellent role model for hard work and academic achievement, she has had to overcome concerns about language, cultural differences, and the behavioral norms at William and Mary. In spite of these obstacles, she still posted overall student evaluations from 4.3-4.8 in overall teaching for both spring and summer terms in four classes.

I have the greatest respect for Dr. Kim in her genuine interest in students, their welfare, and their learning. I can think of no award that would be more meaningful for this college to bestow on her than the Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award. I hope you will consider her nomination to be indicative of the esteem in which she is held by her students and colleagues.

Sincerely

Joyce VanTassel-Baska

Professor Emerita, School of Education

College of William and Mary