



June 26th, 2024

To the Advancement in Rank Committee for Dr. Beth Pester:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Dr. Beth Pester's advancement in rank to professor at Concordia University, Nebraska. Her dedication to our university mission, students, faculty, alumni, and Lutheran education truly makes Concordia University, Nebraska a wonderful place to work and study.

Beth currently serves as the Director of Dual Credit at Concordia, where she oversees over 1700 students, 240 courses, and over 40 partners schools. During her tenure, she has grown the program and established new partnerships with Lutheran schools across the country. In addition to streamlining different processes within the dual credit process, Beth has also developed new and innovative ideas that have strengthened the program and encouraged students to consider Concordia University, Nebraska as their college choice. Beth launched the Concordia Academy for Concordia University Nebraska Dual Credit, a program that recognizes the effort, work, and reward of students taking dual credit courses in high school. This program provides students a Concordia Academy T-Shirt, recognition letter, and the waiving of enrollment fees if they choose to attend Concordia. While this program serves to recognize the efforts of these students, it also provides a great opportunity to recruit and encourage these students to come to Concordia full-time. This is just one example of the innovation that Beth has brought to the Dual Credit program and how her dedication is helping grow the university and strengthen our mission.

Our Lutheran identity is an important part of our work and mission at Concordia University, Nebraska. When I think of the biggest supporters and advocates of a Lutheran education, Beth Pester is the first person that comes to my mind. Beth has a heart and passion for promoting and supporting the values of a Lutheran education. She has extensive relationships with Lutheran schools throughout the country from her prior work as the Director of Student Teaching and from her current role as the Director of Dual Credit. Lutheran educators and administrators throughout the country actively seek out Beth when they are seeking out ways to grow our church worker population, partner with Concordia, or develop new programs. Beth is a blessing to Concordia University, Nebraska and is an integral part of growing and supporting our mission.

When people ask me what I like about Concordia or what sets Concordia apart from other institutions I have been at, it is people like Beth that I talk about the most. Her heart for Jesus and serving others is evident in all her work at Concordia. Beth makes Concordia a special place. I fully and wholeheartedly support her advancement in rank.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Keith Kerschen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Kerschen, PhD
Associate Professor of Education
Director of Data and Assessment
Concordia University, Nebraska