



CATSKILL ART SOCIETY

March 14, 2017

Promotions Committee
SUNY Sullivan
112 College Road
Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759

Dear committee members,

I am writing to share my wholehearted recommendation for Jessica López-Barkl in support of her proposed promotion. I have had the pleasure of working with Jessica since she first arrived to the Catskills as a colleague in the regional arts scene, as a performer under her direction in the Seelig Theatre, and as a fellow actor in professional productions around Sullivan County.

In my opinion, having observed Jessica directing and teaching students in productions, I believe her ability as a professor to be of the highest caliber. She appropriately related to students as young adults, quickly gains their trust, and challenges them to rise to high standards of professionalism, courtesy, teamwork, and intellectual rigor. She not only teaches concrete skills across an unusually diverse range of subjects in theater, with an impressive level of mastery, she also teaches social skills and demonstrably develops students' curiosity, determination, and work ethic with great success.

Witnessing her informal interactions with students, her individualized coaching, and her constant involvement in related extracurricular activities such as improvisation clubs and karaoke, has proven a testament to Jessica's strong moral character and drive to help students be successful. She consistently goes above and beyond to make opportunities and provide assistance out of the classroom, building an active culture for students to interact, learn from each other, and develop as leaders themselves.

It is also clear that Jessica is dedicated to continuing her own growth as a teacher and an artist, as evidenced by her recent turns on stage at NACL Theatre and Shadowland Stages. She continually puts her instruction into practice and is always the first person willing to dive in headfirst, with all the open-mindedness and discipline required of high-quality actors and professors alike. Especially at NACL Theatre, where we have worked together in devising new plays and roles, she demonstrated rigorous application of her classroom policies in a professional setting, bringing the benefit of her remarkable background while continuing to grow.

I hope that my enthusiasm for Jessica's work at SUNY Sullivan is clear, and that you are able to help ensure she can continue her successes for the good of all at the college.

Sincerely,

Bradley Diuguid
Executive Director, Catskill Art Society