



October 10, 2024

Dear Committee,

I am privileged and humbled to write this letter in strong support of Drew Mikita's application for promotion to Professor. Having served as Drew's supervisor for close to seven years and his colleague for an additional two years, I cannot imagine a candidate more qualified and deserving of this promotion. CMC is lucky to count Drew among its ranks.

During his tenure at Colorado Mountain College, Mr. Mikita has served as an Adjunct Professor and Full-time Faculty member. Drew is known for his student-centered approach. He spends time building relationships with students that span beyond academics. He skillfully weaves their interests, aspirations, and concerns into his courses, and his efforts guarantee that students feel seen and heard by Drew. It is a gift that students frequently note in course evaluations and in casual conversations. Drew practices inclusivity each day, inviting students to ponder, learn, and grow in a brave environment where no topic is considered outlandish nor unacceptable. Mr. Mikita helps students understand that they belong and can thrive in an academic setting. Regardless of a student's past educational experiences, Drew believes in each person's ability to engage in the content and to display depth of thinking. Under his tutelage, the students enhance their understanding by engaging in reflection, application, and creation, which represent the highest order of thinking. After a "Mikita Class," students express that they believe in themselves, almost as much as Drew believes in them.

Drew brings this human-centered approach to his colleagues as well. As an ADI, I could count on Drew to arrive at events early to help set up and stay late to assist with clean-up. He brings his positivity and good humor to formal events and to informal interactions. Colleagues contact Drew to talk about how to best support students, and members of the Summit Care Team work with Mr. Mikita should student issues arise. Drew extends his

kindness and expertise to colleagues on a personal level. When the world goes awry, Drew's colleagues rely on his friendly and open approach to help them with work-related and non-work-related issues. A philosophical discussion with Drew about the college systems, community happenings, personal conundrum, or student success is an unparalleled experience.

Drew Mikita is revered by students, faculty, and staff. He plays an integral role at the Summit Campus and the college, moving our systems and educational endeavors forward. Drew's work toward improvement for students, our campus, the college, and himself make him the ideal candidate to receive this promotion. I feel quite fortunate to have the opportunity to work with this visionary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke Carson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooke Carson  
Former Assistant Dean of Instruction  
Current Associate Professor