

October, 2018

Dear members of the Standing Committee on Evaluation, Promotion, and Tenure,

I am pleased to submit this digital portfolio in support of my Tenure review. I am incredibly proud of the work I have been able to do at Graceland and grateful for the community that supports me.

My introduction section includes a current Curriculum Vitae, documentation of my workload since coming to Graceland in the Fall of 2015, my teaching philosophy, and my professional goals for the future. This page also includes an article from the Horizons Magazine, Summer 2017, where I was featured in an article titled *Fabulous Faculty Empower Graceland*. I was honored by graduating senior Ke'Auna Shiele's quote in the article: "Gergs understands that different artists have different styles, but she also gives her honest opinion – preparing us for the real world. I have learned to be picky, pay attention to detail, and have developed new techniques that I wouldn't have thought of on my own. She pushed me every day because I know she believed in my potential. Because of Gergs, I now feel that I am ready to venture into my art career after graduation. #ShesAwesome."

In section two, I reflect on my teaching and student evaluations. I have included sample syllabi that I am proud of, and examples of student work are accessible through four arrow shaped buttons on the site. These examples are a comprehensive collection of student work from the past three years of teaching at Graceland and the years that preceded this appointment. As teaching is my foremost responsibility here, I was very honored to be nominated for Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2017 during my second year at Graceland.

In section three, I offer examples of my scholarship in two ways through creative work and conference presentations. A large part of my creative work is considered socially engaged. I connect with communities to share experiences, gather stories, and provide a space for those stories to be heard. Documentation of my work is available through black arrow buttons streaming across the top of the page, beginning with the most recent. The second part of my scholarship takes place through conference presentations and invited speaking engagements. I am most proud to have presented my research, *Challenges and Triumphs of Curating Socially Engaged Works*, at the National College Art Association Conference in Los Angeles, California in 2018. At the conference I co-facilitated a curated round table discussion about *Social Practice: Doing and Teaching*. Additionally, I will be a featured artist and educator on the *CAA Pedagogical Conversations* podcast discussing teaching and social practices later this year.

In section four, I have provided a comprehensive list of service to students, my department, my division, the University, and the community. Service comes naturally to me, and has a distinct connection with the nature of my creative work. I have served as Art Department Coordinator since 2016 and believe that I have made a positive impact on our curriculum development, recruitment, and advising processes. I have worked hard with admissions and the CMC on department marketing and am proud of the face we are now presenting. I hope that my efforts have made the lives and jobs of my colleagues a little better because of my leadership.

At the university level, I have been trusted to assist in hiring decisions as a part of multiple search committees and have tried to make new community members feel empowered and welcomed when they arrive. After years of serving as an adjunct at multiple institutions, I am grateful to be completely undivided and invested at Graceland.

Some of the most rewarding work I have done here has been with the Honors Program. Over the past two years I have been intimately involved with recruitment, curriculum changes, student mentorship, trip organization, preparing students for conferences, and the day-to-day needs of the program. In spring 2018, Graceland hosted the Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference for the first time. Myself and Dr. Dan Platt shouldered the majority of the of the planning for the conference, and accommodated approximately 200 Honors students and faculty from the region. We coordinated five student-lead committees to help organize the conference, which encouraged students to take agency in the planning process and gave them experience, confidence, and proved to be a strong bonding tool. I am grateful for the challenge the conference offered, the support and trust from Honors Director Dr. Brian White, and Graceland's collaborative spirit.

In section five, I offer my rumination on my personal attributes. I've included thank you notes from students, colleagues, and community members that I've received since arriving here in Lamoni. My attributes include being fair, honest, collaborative, encouraging, communicative, and showing up. Last year, I was humbled to be among the nominees for the Lamoni Chamber's *Lamoni Citizen of the Year* award. This nomination was a testament to the willingness of the town and University to support community engaged projects such as the Lamoni Mural. I am frequently met with questions throughout town asking "what's your next project, and how can we support you?" I care for this community, and I believe support comes as a reward. I am looking forward finding that "next project" to collaborate on!

I am excited to share my work with you, and am I grateful for the time you will take to review my portfolio. Please let me know if you confront any problems navigating this digital portfolio, as I can provide hard copies of all materials. All documents are downloadable for ease. I look forward to discussing my portfolio with you and the work we will do together in the future.

Sincerely,  
Karen Gergely