



**Fort Lewis College
Department of Psychology**

TO: Ziarat Hossain, Chair, Psychology Dept.
FROM: Beverly Chew, Professor, Psychology Dept.
RE: Nomination of Dr. Brian Burke for New Faculty Teaching Award
DATE: November 8, 2004

I wish to write in support of Dr. Burke's nomination for the Fall 2004 Fort Lewis College New Faculty Teaching Award. I have observed his teaching in three different contexts and am impressed with his ability to tailor content and pedagogy to his students' needs.

- (1) Dr. Burke was a guest lecturer in my Winter 2004, Psychological Testing class. He enthralled the students with a case study of a student referred to a college counseling center for differential diagnosis of substance abuse, depression, and/or learning differences. Dr. Burke paused after presentation of carefully selected parts of the testing record and case history, and asked students what diagnosis they were then considering and what additional information they felt they needed. In this way, he modeled clinical assessment and showed the students how to apply what they had already learned from the textbook.
- (2) Dr. Burke presented his dissertation research on the efficacy of motivational interviewing (published in J. of Counseling and Clinical Psychology) to the Winter 2004 Journal Reading class that I co-taught with Dr. Kraus. Methodologically, this meta-analysis is complex and involves multiple analyses to address overlapping research questions. Dr. Burke talked the students through his analysis using an excellent PowerPoint presentation. Using PP allowed him to return to previous ideas when the student questions indicated confusion and to jump back and forth between data and their implications. This helped students visualize the logic behind the analyses in a way that a conventional lecture would not.
- (3) I have observed Dr. Burke's work with his assigned advisees. He handles each meeting as a teaching/learning session requiring students to come to "class" prepared (with their transcripts, midterm grades, etc) and then showing them how to use available resources to answer their own questions (course catalog, webpages, etc). He encourages students to take ownership for their degree program and to begin planning for career and/or graduate work early on.