

April 19, 2017

Bonjour.

Professor Monique Brodeur has asked that I write a brief letter in support of her application to become Principal for Université du Québec à Montréal. I am delighted to do so. I have collaborated with Dr. Brodeur and her talented Canadian colleagues on several projects over a 10-year span. So, I am well acquainted with at least some of her research, and I have come to know her reasonably well.

As researcher, Monique Brodeur has conducted well-controlled, labor-intensive research projects with direct and important implications for elementary-school teachers, teachers-in-training and their students. For instance, she was involved in a project that used a randomized-controlled design to explore the degree to which cost-effective early interventions can prevent learning problems among young students from low-income neighborhoods. This work has been published in major scientific journals. Dr. Brodeur clearly recognizes that rigorous research can have real-life impact.

As a Dean at the Faculty of education, she has also been instrumental in bridging research and training. She has led an effort to add a course on research methods in the special education undergraduate (baccalauréat) program. She was also involved in the development of a new master program for special education teachers. Although this a professional program, Monique has helped ensure that evidence-based practices are well represented in the curriculum.

Professor Brodeur has also shown considerable initiative and skills in communicating research evidence to policy makers in her field, namely elected officials and civil servants at Quebec ministry of Education. In May 2008, she and a small group of UQAM professors who met the then Minister of Education to discuss the implications of research findings for instruction. This meeting has led to a significant reform in the kindergarten and first-grade curriculum.

Finally, I have had the privilege of getting to know Professor Brodeur. She is smart, articulate, charming, passionately committed to her work and that of the university. I have no doubt that she would be a highly effective “ambassador,” spreading the university’s influence locally, nationally, and internationally.

Best wishes.

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

Douglas Fuchs, Ph.D.
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