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January 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,,

I am the Dean of Students at Dominican University and I have known Merle Branner for two years and it is a great honor to recommend her to you. Merle makes a tremendous difference at Dominican University both socially and academically. In addition to remaining an active community volunteer developing an archive in her synagogue, Merle contributes to the building of the very fabric of Dominican while living the Sinsinawa Dominican tradition, "at the heart of ministry is relationship."

In Merle's first few months in her graduate program she recognized some student needs not being met. She responded by assisting the office of the Dean of Students assessing various assistive technologies and the value of their support to college students with disabilities. Merle will raise any issue she feels may diminish the campus common good and try to build a solution to anything students might perceive as an obstacle to learning. Daily she bridges university life and programming with campus climate to improve graduate and commuter student life.

Merle's perseverance and insight, scholarship and service, coupled with passion for fairness and civic engagement make her an outstanding student. She is a woman of deep faith, intellectual integrity, truly dedicated to serving her community and committed to doing so through community library and information science work.

Please consider Ms. Branner, I whole heartedly believe her a worthy candidate.

Sincerely,

Trudi Goggin
Dean of Students