

August 29th, 2023

Re: Australian Awards for University Teaching – Dr John Williams Nomination – Award for Teaching Excellence

From: Dr. Risto Marttinen

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Dr. John Williams' for the Award for Teaching Excellence. I know Dr. Williams professionally as I sought him out to be a guest on a podcast I host about research in health and physical education (www.anchor.fm/pwrhpe). The podcast has a global reach, and I wanted to share the reach these episodes have had with you. Dr. Williams has appeared on two separate episodes: Episode 77: "*Game Sense and Aboriginal games to address social justice w/Dr. Williams*" and Episode 192: "*The role of teacher educator professional learning in reconfiguring physical education.*" Both podcast episodes shared research that Dr. Williams has conducted and published in high-ranking journals.

The episodes clearly had a following as together they account for 1,962 downloads. These episodes are valuable resources for practicing teachers, undergraduate students, and scholars in health and physical education. These podcasts help foster student development as the podcasts are easily accessible and in a format where students can listen to them in the car or while multi-tasking which more traditional formats like journal articles do not allow. Further, they also help students to unpack and understand journal articles that they can sometimes find challenging to make sense of when faced with having to read them without the kind of unique support the podcast offers. Sharing work through the podcast can be a great way to discuss work that otherwise may be stuck behind a paywall and inaccessible to practitioners who don't have university libraries easily accessible. For example, the recent episode we recorded together, Episode 192, discussed his role of professional learning. The paper we discussed had been accessed 365 times since publication at that time, yet the podcast alone reached well over 1,000 downloads. I believe that scholars like Dr. Williams do a great service to the profession by sharing their work through innovative platforms such as a research podcast.

Should you have any questions you can reach me at rmarttin@gmu.edu



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