



March 22, 2026

This document will serve as a recommendation to retain Dr. Marigrace Walker as a full-time instructor in the Education Department.

Recommendation made by Dr. Walker's Promotion, Retention, and Tenure team, comprised of:

- Katherine Sinsabaugh (Professor, Education Department; PRT committee chair)
- Elizabeth Tarvin (Professor, Education Department)
- Christine Henderson (Professor, Behavioral Sciences Department)

The recommendation for Dr. Walker's retention is based upon the following criteria:

- Classroom observations completed by all three members of the committee
- Dr. Walker's professional teaching portfolio that demonstrates ongoing fulfillment of and reflection in each of the following areas:
 - Teaching
 - Service to Students
 - Service to Department & College
 - Professional Development

Teaching

Dr. Walker is an excellent educator whose extensive experience in early childhood education is reflected in her strong understanding of the field. Although she is new to teaching at the college level, she has already shown great skill in designing lessons and learning experiences that are engaging, interactive, and meaningful. Classroom observations show that her sessions are well-structured and give students opportunities to actively engage with and fully experience the material.

Dr. Walker does a wonderful job of connecting theory to practice, especially through hands-on activities. She also regularly shares her own early childhood classroom experiences, which helps bring the content to life for her students. While she is clearly very knowledgeable, she teaches in a way that makes students feel comfortable, supported, and valued.

Dr. Walker's teaching philosophy emphasizes the importance of experiential learning and authentic classroom experiences, and her teaching practices clearly reflect this commitment.

Service to Students

The Education Department is a small, close-knit program, and we take our relationships with students very seriously. When hiring a new full-time faculty member, we hoped to find someone who could build strong, trusting connections with our students—and Dr. Walker has exceeded those expectations. In all observed interactions, she is kind, respectful, approachable, and knowledgeable. She has developed a strong rapport with her students and consistently supports and encourages them in meaningful ways.

One highlight of Dr. Walker's service to students is her role as faculty co-advisor to the Future Teachers Association chapter on campus. In this role, she attends weekly meetings, works closely with students to plan and support club events, and helps create a welcoming and engaging environment—even providing snacks and treats for members. She also accompanied students on a club trip to New Paltz this past fall and continues to be actively involved as the academic year progresses.

Service to Department & College

Dr. Walker has been an active and valuable contributor to departmental activities since the start of her tenure at the college. She regularly participates in department meetings, willingly takes on additional responsibilities, and offers thoughtful, constructive feedback on the topics we discuss.

The Education Department maintains strong relationships with external partners, including OU BOCES and SUNY New Paltz, and we meet with those partners to discuss opportunities, programming, and articulation agreements. Dr. Walker has consistently made herself available for these conversations and brings helpful insight and perspective to this work.

Dr. Walker has also made herself available on the campus level to several initiatives and outreach efforts. These include attendance at Admissions Open House this past fall, and planned attendance at Incoming Student Day this spring. She has also participated in BOA events, which gave her the opportunity to network with students and faculty outside the education department.

Professional Development

Dr. Walker is strongly committed to staying current in the field and continually building on her already well-developed teaching practices. She maintains memberships in several professional organizations, such as the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the New England Educational Research Organization (NEERO). She has taken full advantage of SUNY Orange's professional development opportunities, including completing the online distance learning modules required for certification as a DL instructor.

Most notably, Dr. Walker recently earned her Ed.D. from Western Connecticut State University, an accomplishment that has meaningfully informed her work with SUNY Orange students.

Summary

As evidenced by her professional teaching portfolio and classroom observation write-ups, it is clear that Dr. Walker consistently demonstrates high-quality teaching practices and a strong commitment to her students, the Education Department, and the college community.

Dr. Walker is a valuable member of the college faculty, and we are grateful to have her as a member of the education department. Her personal and professional qualities make her a valuable resource for students, and we wholeheartedly recommend that she is retained as a faculty member in the Education Department.

Katherine Sinsabaugh

3/25/2026

Katherine Sinsabaugh (Committee Chair)

Date

Christine Henderson

3/25/2026

Christine Henderson

Date

Elizabeth Tarvin

3/26/26

Elizabeth Tarvin

Date

Marigrace Walker

3/26/26

Marigrace Walker

Date