January 25, 2021

To the Hatch Prize Selection Committee:

I am writing to support the nomination of Distinguished Professor Ken Golden for the Calvin S. & Jeneal N. Hatch Prize in Teaching. For over twenty years, Dr. Golden has made extraordinary contributions to teachings.

Your committee will see many excellent nominations. But what elevates Dr. Golden’s file from merely outstanding to truly exceptional is his unique combination of scholarly accomplishment, teaching excellence, commitment to equity and inclusion, and prominence as a public communicator of science and mathematics. *Dr. Golden is the best example that I know of an educator who intertwines deep research expertise with a passion teaching and outreach.*

His towering research reputation is evidenced by his many of the most significant awards in his discipline. (At the U, for example, he has been recognized with our own Distinguished Research Award and holds the rank of Distinguished Professor). Many scholars who are deeply devoted to their research naturally gravitate to more advanced teaching assignments. Dr. Golden has excelled in this role too, for example designing the innovative interdisciplinary MATH 5780/6680 *Mathematics and Climate,* integrated into a $5M NSF award entitled Math Climate Research Network on which he was PI*.* ButDr. Golden is most at home in large lecture sections (many of over 200 students) of 1000- and 2000-level calculus courses that he has taught regularly for two decades.

The scale of Dr. Golden’s teaching endeavors is truly impressive. For example, he has taught over 6,000 students the entry level calculus sequence. This sequence consists of some of the most important service courses that we offer at the U. (Every future scientist, engineer, and health science professional takes them.) They are also among the most demanding to teach since the subject matter is rigorous, the pace is brisk, and students invariably find the material challenging. It is clear from reading Dr. Golden’s student evaluations that he is an inspiring teacher who never shies away from the difficulty of the material, but instead seeks to open his students up to the world of exciting applications that mathematics makes possible. Dr. Golden’s excellence as a teacher has been recognized with the university’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. Golden is well-known as a highly effective communicator of mathematics and science. He has regularly engaged the public in high profile venues (such as the Porter Lecture, the most prestigious general audience lecture of the American Mathematical Society). These activities have not gone unnoticed, as evidenced by profiles in *Scientific American,* *Science, and Physics Today*, as well asanNSF homepage feature (aptly titled “On Golden’s Meltpond”).He has been invited to address the Congress of the United States three times.

Finally, Dr. Golden has been a long-standing advocate for advancing gender equity in mathematics and STEM, most recently through his involvement in the college’s ACCESS program for women in STEM. ONE MORE SENTENCE…

In short, for all the reasons described above, Distinguished Professor Ken Golden excels in all the criteria for the Hatch Teaching Prize. He has my highest possible endorsement for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Peter E. Trapa

Dean, College of Science