



# Castleton University

Dec. 22, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to apply as a research participant in the UTMOST Project.

I would be able to teach linear algebra in the fall semesters and abstract algebra in the spring semesters, beginning in the 2017-18 academic year. Both/either of these could also be taught as control sections. I have taught linear algebra since 2010, for a total of six semesters. I taught abstract algebra in the spring of 2014 and 2015, and I am scheduled to teach it again next semester (spring 2016), for a total of three semesters. Linear algebra runs every fall, and abstract algebra runs every spring semester, so I will be teaching these courses again next year (2016-17).

Although I do not have any experience teaching a course using mathematical software, I am very excited to try using an open source textbook and Sage, and was actually planning to do this before I found out about the study. Our institute has been striving to incorporate more technology into our teaching and research, and we are considering developing a new program in computer science. The research study would coincide nicely with our efforts. I do not have any experience with Sage in particular.

Castleton University is a small, rural, public 4-year liberal arts college. Castleton is part of the Vermont State College System, and changed its name to Castleton University in July of 2015. With about 2100 students, Castleton currently has more than 30 undergraduate programs and 8 graduate programs. Castleton students are mainly Vermonters (two-thirds), most of whom receive need- or merit-based financial aid (80%). 60% of the incoming class is typically first-generation. Although the majority of out-of-state students are from surrounding states, we do have a small but growing number of international students representing 19 countries. With 94 full-time faculty, 96% of whom hold terminal degrees, we have a 14:1 student/faculty ratio and an average class size of 17.

Students who enroll in linear algebra and abstract algebra are usually math majors in their third or fourth year. Students in these courses are generally pure math majors or math majors concentrating in secondary education.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information. Contact information is provided below. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue Generazzo, Ph. D.  
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# Castleton University

December 21, 2015

UTMOST Project Review Committee,

I am writing this letter of support and endorsement for Dr. Susan Generazzo who has applied to become part of your research program. Castleton University and our department of mathematics encourage and support her in this endeavor. We encourage all of our faculty to pursue meaningful activities as part of their faculty development and encourage participation in programs such as yours. We are fully aware of the requirements of your program and will make every effort to schedule the necessary classes at the stated times.

Castleton University is a small educational institution in Vermont and our mathematics department seeks to prepare majors and to provide service courses for general education as well as other programs. We aim to prepare our majors both for mathematically related careers in education, government, the private sector, and for graduate studies in mathematics. Our general education mission is to prepare students to effectively use quantitative and symbolic reasoning and analysis in their professional and personal lives, while our service mission to other programs is to provide coherent, effective and efficient courses appropriate to their needs.

The goal of our programs in mathematics is to provide high quality education in mathematics meeting the instructional and professional needs of our students, and to nurture in them an appreciation of mathematics, abstraction, rigor, and justification. Our instructional programs incorporate the standard core topics as well as some specialized areas.

Dr. Generazzo is an Assistant Professor in the mathematics department. She is an excellent teacher and emulates enthusiasm in the mathematics courses that she teaches. Her enthusiasm is contagious and she has the ability to generate the same enthusiasm in her students on a regular basis. I support her efforts to become a participant in your program and recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dale Kreisler; Ph. D.  
Mathematics Professor  
& Department Chair  
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