

A. Letter of Application

October 1, 2002

To whom it may concern:

I, Christopher S. Cramer, would like to be considered for promotion and tenure from the rank of Assistant Professor to the rank of Associate Professor. Having started my employment as an Assistant Professor of Horticulture in September of 1997, I have completed five years of employment and I am starting my sixth year of employment.

While an Assistant Professor of Horticulture at New Mexico State University, I have excelled in three areas: Teaching, Research, and Service. My teaching activities have included teaching four undergraduate level courses: Introductory Plant Science, Herbaceous Ornamental Plants, Organic Vegetable Production, Vegetable Crop Management, and three graduate level courses: Biometrical Genetics and Plant Breeding, Discussions in Molecular Biology, and Biotechnology for Plant Breeders. Two of these courses, Herbaceous Ornamental Plants and Organic Vegetable Production, were new courses that had not been taught before in the department. Each of these courses has focused on experiential learning with students participating in the learning process. I have worked diligently to improve my teaching by attending numerous teaching improvement seminars and workshops, and implementing this knowledge into my courses. Students generally have rated my courses favorably. Students often acknowledge my enthusiasm for and knowledge of the subject matter that I am teaching. I have been highly involved in advising students both at the undergraduate and graduate level. I have advised numerous incoming, current, and past undergraduate students, and served as the advisor

for the undergraduate student horticulture club, Hort Forum. I have or currently are advising eight graduate students either as their major advisor or as a committee member. I have worked at recruiting new students to the university through my participation in FFA judging contests, 4-H conferences, science fairs, and recruiting events aimed at high school students.

My research activities have focused on the development of onion varieties for New Mexico, onion variety evaluation, onion production for New Mexico, maintaining and screening onion germplasm, onion disease resistance, and a better understanding of environmental and genetic effects on onion traits. While the onion breeding program has been under my direction for the last five years, the program has released five onion varieties. These varieties will make a marked impact on the New Mexico onion industry. Two of the released varieties have received plant variety protection from the USDA, while protection is pending for the other varieties. While at NMSU, I have published 16 refereed articles, one book chapter, six germplasm releases, seven proceedings papers, four N.M. Agricultural Experiment Station research reports, three extension publications, and six other nonrefereed articles. While at NMSU, I have secured over \$472,000 in external grant funding, over \$18,000 in foundation seed sales, over \$26,000 in royalties, and over \$24,000 in gifts. I regularly attend and make presentations at scientific conferences. In 2000, I organized the New Mexico Onion Conference. Each year, our breeding program holds a field day in which growers, producers, shippers, buyers, sales people, and researchers regularly attend. In addition to my work on onions, I help direct a research program focused on organic vegetable production in the Mesilla Valley and supported through Community Supported Agriculture.

In addition to teaching and research, I am highly committed to service. At the departmental level, I serve on three standing committees, serve as co-advisor for the department

undergraduate student club, regularly recruit students for the department, have served on three search committees for open positions, and have served on eight research project review committees. At the college level, I organize the State FFA produce judging contest each year and I have served on two search committees. For my extension service, I serve as the university's expert on onions. I regularly attend meetings with growers, visit with growers, hold field days for growers, contribute to magazine and newspaper article and news stories, conduct variety trials for growers, and provide tours our research program to all interested individuals. We have a research project web page (onion.nmsu.edu) that provides valuable information to growers and other interested parties. For community service, I have organized gleanings to gather excess onions produced from our research program and distribute them to hunger relief agencies in southern New Mexico. Professionally, I regularly review manuscripts submitted to peer reviewed publications. I served as an associate editor in publishing a workshop proceedings. I serve on several professional committees.

Thank you for reviewing my packet for promotion and tenure. I hope that you will find me a suitable candidate for promotion and tenure. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Cramer

Assistant Professor of Horticulture