



University of Dayton  
**Master of Public  
Administration**

March 17, 2021

Dear Prof. David Brown and members of the faculty awards committee,

I am writing to support my mentor, colleague, and friend Dr. John Gilderbloom as recipient of the 2021 University of Louisville Arts and Sciences Outstanding Research and Creativity Award. He is an asset of the UPA Department and should be honored for his creative research contributions to the university, community, and field. He is passionate about his work and supportive of his students' development as researchers by including them as full partners in his research projects. I would not be where I am today without the guidance and support I received as a student in the UPA Ph.D. Program from Dr. Gilderbloom.

I first met John when I visited UofL in early Spring 2007, while shopping for Ph.D. programs as a student completing my MPP degree at the Johns Hopkins University. Other faculty members at the time neglected my visit, but John made time to meet with me, discuss collaborative projects we could work on together, and to take me on a guided tour of urban Louisville. His interest in me led to my choosing UofL for my doctoral education as a University Fellow. I was not assigned to a faculty member as a Research Assistant, but I voluntarily chose to work with John for the 3 years I took to complete the program—and for many years after graduation.

I was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor and made Director of the MPA Program 3 years ago at the University of Dayton, a top-ranked Public Affairs program at a top-ranked national university. My placement and, ultimately, professional success would not have been possible without John. John and I have co-authored 7 papers published in the top journals in urban studies. Our work together accounts for about two-thirds of my peer-reviewed publications. Without him, my research output would be a fraction of what it is.

In recent years, John has continued his impactful work on housing and community development but merged this agenda with the most important issues of our times – sustainability, environmental justice, pollution and life expectancy, and the COVID-19 pandemic. His work is on the cutting edge of applied social science with a firm foundation in the scientific method and accepted quantitative empirical methodologies.

Most importantly, from my view, he continues to collaborate with students and alumni on this vital work (alongside other national experts). His CV and application packet for the award speak for themselves - this work has generated numerous peer-reviewed publications, several books, and countless opinion pieces in widely read publications online and in print. He takes his responsibility as a public intellectual seriously and believes in disseminating his research for public consumption by policymakers and non-experts alike.

In sum, I cannot say enough good things about John Gilderbloom. I strongly encourage you to consider him for this award due to the quality and quantity of his published work, his partnership with students, and his commitment to applied science with an impact outside the academy on the most important issues of our day.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joshua D. Ambrosius". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joshua D. Ambrosius, Ph.D.

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