

May 8, 2021

University of Victoria  
PO Box 1700 STN CSC  
Victoria BC V8P 5C2

**Re: 2021 REACH Award for Excellence in Research Partnerships**

Dear REACH Nomination Committee,

I am delighted to write as a referee in support of Dr. Nancy Clark, an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing, who is being nominated for the 2021 REACH Award for Excellence in Research Partnerships. Dr. Clark is an outstanding nomination for this award with an impressive record of advocacy and community engagement with community partners to advance address the mental health need needs of vulnerable and racialized immigrants and refugees.

Dr. Clark works with non-profit settlement agencies in BC, across Canada and internationally to build capacity for evidence-based practices in addressing the mental health needs of refugees. Her impactful scholarship to advocate for underserved and vulnerable refugee populations has been recognized and supported by a range of awards including a CIHR Fellowship, a MSFHR Community Partnership Grant and an award from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). In particular it is worth mentioning her work to found The *Victoria Immigrant Migrant Mental Health Network*, a UVic initiative with Victoria-based migrant and mental health service that addresses a gap in mental health services for refugees and immigrants. Within BC, Dr. Clark continues to develop strong community partnerships, including **Options Community Services**, a non-profit providing social services that include transitional housing, crisis lines, counseling and more. Most recently, Dr. Clark has received international reach with a 5-year SSHRC university partnership grant that includes 16 academic institutions, 11 NGAs, and 2 United nations agencies.

To cut to the chase, her research is changing our communities for the better. Findings from a recent participatory action research project involving community partners was funded by the Vancouver Foundation. Her research examined interpreter support for recent immigrants in the health care system and findings are now being disseminated in a quality improvement education series with medical students and physicians. At an early stage in her career, Dr. Clark's scholarship and community partnerships have had far-reaching impacts beyond the academy. I have worked primarily with Nancy as a colleague and she brings her advocacy to our nursing curriculum and the classroom, ensuring that our nursing students gain a deeper understanding of the health needs of refugee populations. She is most deserving of this award.

Sincerely,



Debra Sheets, Ph.D., MSN, RN, FAAN  
Professor