



The College at
BROCKPORT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

10/19/20

Dear Mabel Lee Awards Committee,

I am a life member of SHAPE America and am proud of what our organization has produced in the past 30 years. I believe that this young professional I am about to introduce to you is one of the products of our organization.

I am writing this letter to recommend Dr. Andrew Colombo-Dougovito for the prestigious Mabel Lee award for young faculty. Dr. Colombo-Dougovito specific area of research interest focuses on understanding the motor development and physical activity behaviors of individuals on the autism spectrum across their lifespan. He uses his expertise in mixed methodology to employ both qualitative and quantitative methods in the search of high-quality intervention, assessment, and teaching strategies to reduce systemic barriers to physical activity and healthy behaviors. Through participatory research frameworks, he is interested in co-producing research that closely aligns with actual community need to ensure equal opportunity is provided to autistic individuals and their families. His research is both cutting edge and very applicable in today's settings.

Through careful review of his vitae, you will see that Dr. Colombo-Dougovito has two distinct lines of research. He strives to learn how to inform pre-service teachers about the field of adapted physical education. He also has developed top of the line research related to the interventions needed to teach children with autism in the motor skill area. His research is functional and useful and has already helped change the lives of many children through a lens of evidence-based practice. His presentations on these topics are even more numerous than his publications. To date, Dr. Colombo-Dougovito has 19 peer reviewed publications and over 40 presentations at local, national, and international conferences. He gives generously of his time and expertise to the profession on an ongoing basis as you can see in his voluminous vitae.

Dr. Colombo-Dougovito has applied for and was awarded several key research grants. He also has been awarded several prestigious awards both in his doctoral program, and also in his current career as a professor. In 2019 he was awarded the coveted Ellie D. Friedman Young Professional Award from the International Federation of Adapted Physical Activity. I was awarded this in 1997 and know that it is not a very easy award to get! He was also recently awarded the "Top Paper" in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication on the Status of Women.

Professional involvement in national and international organizations and committees is also one of Dr. Colombo-Dougovito's strengths. He is very involved in SHAPE America

as the chair-elect of the APE/A special interest group. He has also been on the national convention planning committee for the past four years. Lastly, for SHAPE America he is a reviewer for the Tommy Wilson Grants. He is equally as involved in National Consortium for PE for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPEID), North American Federation of Adapted Physical Activity (NAFAPA), and American Educational Research Association (AERA) to name a few.

As you can see Dr. Colombo-Dougovito's cutting edge evidence-based practice research, his ability to write and secure grant funding, his involvement in the professional community, and his dedication to children and families with autism is remarkable. I believe he exemplifies the Mabel Lee Young Professional award very well.

Thank you very much for considering him for this prestigious award

Sincerely,

[Lauren Lieberman](#)

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