To: Dr. Koltz Members of the Search Committee

Department of Counseling

Montana State University

Re: Letter of Application for Taewon Kim

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

It is with great hope and aspiration that I am applying for the position of Assistant Professor in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at the University of Texas at El Paso. I am currently a doctoral candidate in Counselor Education at the University of Central Florida (UCF), and fully anticipate graduating by May 2023. Prior to my doctoral studies at UCF, I attended the Seoul National University (SNU), where I received my Master’s degree (M.A.) in Educational Counseling in 2014, and two bachelor’s degrees (B.A.) in Education and Psychology in 2012. My passion for counselor education and supervision includes conducting research to advocate for underrepresented populations and fostering student development through teaching. In the same vein, I admire your department’s commitment to develop collaborative partnerships that encourage your mission to promote social justice for groups that have been historically disenfranchised. Kindly allow me to present a brief summary of my research and work experience for this application below:

**Research** My research agenda includes multiculturalism & underrepresented population, relationship in counseling and supervision, and research methodology.My dissertation aligns with my passion for the topics and is entitled “Counselors’ Dimension of Collectivism/Individualism and Recognized Working Alliance: The Role of Self-Differentiation & Countertransference.” The possible results will potentially enable counselor educators to better understand the relationship factors of underrepresented counselors of color. In addition, my expertise includes competency in diverse methodologies, ranging from advanced statistics to the assessment of physiological changes (e.g., heart rate, sympathetic-parasympathetic activation, etc.). As a strong advocate for marginalized groups, I have been involved in several research projects related to minority populations. Currently, I am a member of three research teams and have collaboratively worked on the investigations related to underrepresented LGBTQI+ populations, minority faculty, and Asian American counselors respectively. Presenting my work and research at multiple events has also been a greatly rewarding experience. The methodology courses undertaken at the Education & Psychology departments at SNU and my stint as Operations Manager for Research Method and Statistics Workshops at SNU have provided a strong quantitative and qualitative foundation for my research activities.

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**Teaching** During my Doctoral program, I have had the opportunity of co-teaching three graduate-level courses (i.e., Family Counseling II, Mental Health Care Systems, and Practicum in Counselor Education) and one undergraduate course (i.e., Career planning). I have also taught several counseling courses at various universities such as East Tennessee State University, University of Central Florida, Seoul National University, and Gyeongsang National University as guest faculty. Prior to my Doctoral program, I had the opportunity to teach stimulating courses such as Counseling Theory, Advanced Counseling and Supervision, Prevention of Suicide, etc. for officers, Noncommissioned Officers, and drill masters, and soldiers in the Air Force.

As an educator, Iam anchored in a constructivist approach, while focusing on active listening and facilitation. It is important to me that my students can share their voices and construct a holistic structure of learning. Therefore, my emphasis in teaching is to create a safe and supportive learning environment to explore individuals' values, beliefs, and emotions and to increase students’ multicultural counseling competencies.

**Clinical & Supervision Experience** Myclinical experiences with counseling are spread across psycho-education, assessments and individual and group counseling for university, school, community, and military-based mental health services. During my master's program, I worked as a volunteer counselor serving 6 cases-72 sessions of individual counseling and 6 groups-60 sessions of group counseling. After obtaining the M.A. degree, I served as a Military Counseling Officer for three and a half years, where I was responsible for more than 30 thousand Airmen's mental health care. During my service here, I gained experience in handling a wide range of issues such as career concerns, multicultural issues, gender identity, homicidal-suicidal ideation & behavior, and various mental health diseases (i.e., schizophrenia, depression, personality disorder, etc.). Later, I had the privilege to serve as a counselor for a protective committee of Korean Government Rehabilitation Agency, where I managed group counseling for the resocialization of ex-prisoners for almost two years. At the UCF Community Clinic and Research Center, I managed daily operations as a Clinic Coordinator, including facilitating the transition to telehealth counseling services during COVID-19.

In the future, I look forward to supervising and guiding students when they are confronted with diversified clientele and complicated clinical situations. Upon completion of my doctoral studies, I will be eligible for my practice license in the United States; I would be very happy to pursue my license in Missouri to provide better service to students and to engage with the local community.

**Service** During my doctoral journey,I have enjoyed participating in various professional services. I have been honorably appointed as a 2022-2023 Emerging Leader in the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC). Alongside actively participating in Executive Board meetings, Research Committees & various leadership roles, I have been collaborating to contribute to the counseling society. As a Vice- President of the Counselor Education Doctoral Student Organization (CEDSO), I could assist and facilitate doctoral students' active participation in their service and presentation opportunities across the States. Currently, I am also serving as an administrator of the International Chapter of Korean Counseling Association (KCA), where I have been working for the close collaboration between the U.S. and Korean counseling society.

It is my understanding that Arizona State University has a well-organized counselor education program that carries a long tradition of successfully interacting with communities to forge a more just society. To get the best out of both academia & society, I have served on a wide range of research and field projects. Prior to my doctoral studies, I gained extensive real-world service experience through my work as a Counseling Officer in the Korean Air Force, where I served as a First Lieutenant and Company Commander from 2014 to 2017. This was a memorable milestone for my career, as only one Airman is selected every two years for this position. Also, I have dedicated myself to the upliftment of the weak in society while serving as manager at the Active Mentoring Center, which supports low-income youth in care blind spots through cooperation with the community.

In conclusion, the preceding reputation of the faculty members of this department excites me immensely and I hope to contribute to your department as an ever-developing researcher, educator, supervisor, and advocate at the forefront of counselor education society. I believe my academic and professional background, clinical experiences, and teaching & supervision expertise dovetail with the delineated job description and program goals for the Assistant Professor of Counseling tenured faculty track at the Montana State University. It is my greatest desire to start the next chapter of my life with the University of Maryland. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Most Sincerely,

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Taewon Kim, M.A.

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