

February 23, 2012

Dr. Herman Debose, Chair

Department of sociology

Dear DR. Debose:

If there is any professor at CSUN that deserves the Distinguished Teaching Award, it's professor Schutte. His commitment and dedication to the students is unparalleled to anything I have ever seen in twenty years of education. The vast amount of resources he dedicates to his class; as well as, a very flexible schedule of availability makes a rather difficult subject much more comprehensible. The way his class is set up promotes group work and team based study sessions which I found were extremely important when it came to lab work and test preparation. However, on top of finding new study buddies, I found individuals whose friendship I now enjoy on a regular basis. I can't think of any class I have ever studied twenty-five plus hours a week for, but there was never a time when I felt frustrated or confused.

On top of his brilliant class structure, professor Schutte is an amazing individual who promotes a level of comfort that makes everyone feel at ease to talk to him on a personal level. This type of connection creates a very relaxed and friendly environment for learning that lessens the student-professor tension. I honestly couldn't imagine spending six hours of my Sundays at school and the very thought made me cringe. However, professor Schutte's way of presenting the material and the commitment he showed in making people fundamentally understand how they can use the knowledge acquired in the class in their everyday world, actually made me look forward to going to class.

Professor Schutte has not only taught me stats and methods, but has inspired me to seek out questions. These questions are essential for analyzing myself; as well as, finding the truth behind the answers that are in the world around me. From the first day I met professor Schutte, I knew I would have an experience with him that would change my life forever. The knowledge I acquired and the interactions in professor Schutte's class have truly been an inspirational experience for me; hence, I feel privileged to have been mentored by such an amazing individual. I only hope that our paths will cross in the future and I will have the opportunity to enjoy some of Dr. Schutte's classes once more. So, I urge you not to miss out on this opportunity to appreciate such a remarkable individual that does so much for his students.

Sincerely,

Shant Deravanesian

Social Welfare Major