

February 2012

Chair Department of sociology

Dear Herman Debose,

I am writing this letter in support for Dr. Jerald Schutte for the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award. I was privileged for having Professor Schutte as a professor in the Fall of 2011 every Sunday for six hours. It was a hybrid class of Social Statistics (364) and Methods Research (497). This was the most challenging yet beneficial class I have ever taken. Though this 8 unit 6 hour class seems intimidating, especially for a weekend, the time went by so fast with the way Professor Schutte taught the class.

Professor Schutte is very passionate about what he teaches, and from the first day of class I could see that passion. He seemed like what he was doing was more than just a teaching job, he really cared about his students. Professor Schutte really wants his students to understand, learn, and succeed in the material. Before tests, he would come to school extra days to reach out to all students and their schedules. He was really considerate of our situation as college students and working adults with other responsibilities. When students really needed extra help or understanding of the material, he was there for that. During class lectures and office hours, he made sure to answer any questions or concerns students had. He encouraged all of us to work together as a class and wanted everyone to succeed. Professor Schutte was dedicated to his work and very organized with the class. The homework was presented clearly and so much help and guidance was accessible online. What was really helpful was how he made all his lectures available through podcasts. Professor Schutte did whatever he could to make sure his students would succeed. He provided multiple resources and aids to help understand the class material.

It wasn't just statistics and research methods he taught, but certain ways of thinking and study habits that benefited me and helped me succeed throughout the whole semester and to this day. A lot of what I learned in class I can still recall to this day and can apply to my life. Very few professors have impacted me like professor Schutte has, and his dedication towards his students and passion for teaching is why he deserves the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award.

Sincerely,

Melissa Kieffer