

March 5, 2012

California State University Northridge
Faculty Senate Office
18111 Nordhoff Street
Oviatt Library, Room 10
Northridge, California 91330-8221

RE: Distinguished Teaching Award, Letter of Support

Dear Award Committee Members:

It is with the deepest sense of honor and privilege that I write this letter in support of Dr. Jerald Schutte for the Distinguished Teacher Award. I have known Jerry for more than 16 years, during which time, he has been my professor on three separate occasions, graduate mentor, and is now a faculty colleague, and most importantly, a friend. Needless to say, I have had the unique opportunity to both experience and witness Jerry's infectious passion and devotion for teaching.

I would wager that within an instant, most of us can recall that favorite teacher in their lifetime. Any teacher reading this letter has probably been especially cared for, pushed, or inspired by at least one teacher — a teacher you have remembered throughout your life and into your teaching career. For me, that teacher is Jerry. Quite simply, Jerry is a remarkable professor, whose charisma in the classroom and devotion to the profession is surpassed only by the longevity of his lessons. In fact, it is with rare exception that you will find a person, who so easily incites in his students an exuberance for learning and fosters an insatiable intellectual fervor. Furthermore, his command of the discipline makes him an extraordinary scholar, capable of presenting the most complex and abstract concepts in a manner that is both understandable and intellectually palatable. Keep in mind that we are talking about a professor whose teaching assignments consist of the most difficult courses for sociology majors such as quantitative statistics and quantitative research methods. For example, how often do you hear students walk away from a course that they “knew” they would fail, only to discover that what once appeared unintelligible, is now simply a new paradigm in thinking- oriented toward science, logic, and rationality. A

transformation so profound, that its affect can only be measured in perpetuity; an awakening of sorts.

As a colleague, Jerry's devotion to the department and wider campus community is both expansive and constant. In fact, innovations and changes to the campus environment from his influence are immutable. For example, a short conversation with any presidential cabinet member will reveal both the breadth and scope of changes set in motion by Jerry's enduring engagement on committees, faculty forums, academic presentations, scholarly publications, and research work completed at the request of high-level administrators. The following is just a small sample of topical areas of which Jerry has helped shape policy and direct resources: curriculum, course scheduling, information technology, web design, pedagogy, departmental politics, faculty contracts, space allocation, personnel, and student success ratios.

In closing, it is with sincere conviction that I enthusiastically recommend that Dr. Jerald Schutte be selected as a recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award. It would be a great tribute to a man, who is so deserving of public praise.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Little', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Dominic Little
ITC II & Faculty