

February 9, 2012

Dear Herman Debose, Chair Department of Sociology:

As a former student of Dr. Jerald Schutte I, beyond doubt, support his nomination for the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award for 2011-12. He deserves this award because he truly is an outstanding professor with great qualities and talent.

The superiority of Dr. Schutte's instruction over exceeded my expectation of this course because Dr. Schutte was always prepared and organized. Dr. Schutte has the magnificent ability to combine Sociology 364 and 497 together in such manner that the class materials compliment and reinforce one another without confusion, while also incorporating other sociological terms. What stood out the most about Dr. Schutte was his incredible ability to reach out and connect with his students. Dr. Schutte always encouraged questions and never belittled his students regardless of how dull the questions may be and he encouraged us to always think "outside the box." The class website served as a powerful tool in helping students retrieve information within the course as well as outside sources. The website had every lecture laid out via power points, book review material, practice quizzes, and test review materials. Dr. Schutte would host office hours every Thursday evening that turned into a secondary "lecture" that helped clarify any questions we had from the previous lecture. Approximately 50% of the class would show up willingly every Thursday to hear what Dr. Schutte had to say. In addition to his office hours Dr. Schutte would also host an online test review via Elluminate, in which he would log on at a certain time and we had the opportunity yet again to ask him any questions regarding the test.

Dr. Jerry Schutte stands out significantly from the other professors at CSUN because he genuinely cares about his students and I'm very fortunate to have been instructed by such an outstanding professor. Dr. Schutte suggested a "partner system" where the student with the highest grade in class was paired with the lowest grade student for tutoring purposes. The system helped some from failing the course/helped others reach a higher grade. The partner system was an effective tactic developed by Dr. Schutte and demonstrated that he did everything within his power to make sure that every student understood the material and pass the course. I have never witnessed nor heard of such a dedicated professor like Dr. Schutte. It has been the hardest class that I've ever taken and yet it remains my favorite class. Being a former student of Dr. Schutte has been a life altering experience because he has changed my definition of what a great professor should be. He demonstrated that no matter how challenging a course may be, it's very important to have faith in one's self ability without doubt and always ask questions. I know that when I look back at my CSUN years I will always remember Dr. Schutte, and speak of him to others and express myself in the same way that I'm expressing myself in this letter.

Finally, it would be extremely rewarding knowing that Dr. Schutte was acknowledged and repaid with the great and honorable title of distinguished teacher, for all his hard work. Thank you for nominating the greatest professor I've had and please consider him for the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award for 2011-12.

Sincerely,
Leticia Santana