

March 5, 2012

Professor Steven Stepanek  
President  
Faculty Senate  
California State University-Northridge

Dear Professor Stepanek:

I am writing to support my dear colleague, Dr. Jerald Schutte, for his nomination for the Faculty Senate's 2012 Distinguished Teaching, Counseling, or Librarian Award.

Jerry has been with the Department of Sociology for nearly four decades. There is no need to mention an unwavering commitment he has demonstrated to teaching and California State University-Northridge as a workhorse in preparing generations of local youths for the regional labor force. Nor is there any need to note a wholehearted dedication he has exhibited to students and student success through skill-centered training and role-modeling.

In my personal experience with Jerry, I am most impressed by the following: (1) Jerry is an enthusiastic explorer in the forefront of instructional technologies. He was the first to experiment with hybrid formats, the first to pilot online and virtual labs, the first to pioneer electronic texts, and most noticeably, among the first in the country to teach a course entirely online; (2) Jerry is a bold experimenter with alternative scheduling. He piloted the first TTh 6:30 am class, the first Saturday class, and the first Sunday class. With his successful lobbying, MW-TTH and FR-SA formats have now become a reality for our working students; and (3) Jerry is a master navigator through the administration on campus. Cultivating a close relationship with administrators at college and university levels, he is able to implement a variety of classroom initiatives, such as construction of the first ever combined CATI Lab/Classroom, use of the first Symposium, and application of the first push-pull computer projector technology, to the benefit of students and student learning.

Jerry has distinguished himself in teaching through his commitment to instruction, dedication to students, and innovation in educational technology. He deserves to be honored for his lifelong contributions to California State University-Northridge as a premier teaching institution.

With best regards,



Victor N. Shaw, Ph.D.  
Professor of Sociology