

*From the desk of*  
*Donna E. Sinclair*

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February 29, 2012

Herman Debose, Chair  
Department of Sociology

Dear Dr. Debose,

I am writing this letter in regards to Professor Jerald Schutte. I met Professor Schutte in August 2009 on my first day of class after being out of school for many years. I had just been laid off from my job in the automobile industry and decided to take this time to complete my Bachelor's degree. I have completed my Bachelor's degree and scheduled to graduate this May with my Master's in Education at the University of Southern California.

Professor Schutte was a huge help in providing an effective and expeditious way for me to complete my courses. He offered a class set up on Saturday's that met the requirement of two classes and a lab. When I first signed up for this six hour course on Saturdays, I knew I had to do it no matter how difficult I thought it would be in order to save time. However, once in the classroom, I met the most generous, and caring Professor I have ever encountered. He made that six hours feel like two hours. He did this by providing adequate breaks and nutritious snacks so that we were alert and energetic. Aside from those basic needs, he made the class exciting and interesting by using the latest technology to provide information and make it easily accessible. The atmosphere was inviting yet intense. This was no easy ride. I worked like I've never worked before for a class during and outside of class time.

The class was provided with a document titled "Ten Steps to a Successful Class" which was a weekly schedule of what to do each day to be successful in this class. Follow the list and you're on your way. He also gave us "The Grade Profile" a breakdown of the habits of an "A", "B", "C", or "D" student. By developing good habits and breaking bad one's I too can be a successful student no matter what was put before me. Professor Schutte instilled not only the desire to want to do well, but also the road map. It was after the many hours with a tutor and study groups in the library that I decided to become a teacher so that I can do my best to offer to others what I have received from Professor Schutte.

I recommend Professor Schutte without reservation for the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award for 2011-12. His innovative outlook and research on the students of today and tomorrow will continue to provide the best and latest use of technological, sociological, and psychological methods to make learning productive, advanced and comprehensible so that we all may benefit. By setting up an environment for the student to be more self reliant, it sets the stage for a more aware and critically thinking individual which would be taken to a new level and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Donna E. Sinclair  
USC Student and Teacher Trainee

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