

March 5, 2012

Herman DeBose
C/o Department of Sociology
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330
Re: Letter of Support for Jerald Schutte

Dear Dr. DeBose,

I have been a student at Cal State Northridge for many years and have met few instructors like Dr. Jerald Schutte. While I was completing my bachelor's degree I enrolled in his social psychology, statistics, and research methods courses. Without a doubt, his classes have been some of the most challenging I've encountered. The material was always difficult and his expectations, rather high. However, I continued to enroll in his classes for two simple reasons- he is an extraordinary professor and a wonderful human being. He has an incredible ability to connect with all of his students. Dr. Schutte's dedication to his profession is evident in his teaching methods and the immense support he gives to his students, pushing all of us to reach our true potential. In speaking with my peers, it's become clear that many of us think highly of Dr. Schutte and feel extremely privileged to have been in his classes.

I am quite positive that you are familiar with his strong work ethic and talent, as a result, I won't spend much time touching on the quality of his instruction. I did, however, want to speak about the wonderful memories I have. In the fall of 2007, I enrolled in his combined statistics and research methods class held on Saturdays from roughly 8:00am to 3:00pm. I remember being completely nervous about this class. I was working full time and knew I had to perform extremely well. This was also the first semester in which I needed to reach out to CSUN's Center on Disabilities to request special equipment to accommodate my special needs in his classroom. I have a corneal disease which has left me with limited vision. As a previous student, I already knew that Dr. Schutte was extremely helpful and compassionate. It was important for me to find a professor who would be patient as dealing with the ramifications of my illness was difficult enough. Dr. Schutte provided the most comfortable environment he could, and for that I am eternally grateful. However, I must say that I am most grateful for his endless words of encouragement, both in undergraduate and graduate school. He pushed me to overcome adversity, continue my education, and pursue graduate school. I am now finally completing my master's degree and can say that he has played a pivotal role in my academic pursuits.

When I first found out that he was being nominated for the CSUN distinguished Teaching Award, I was ecstatic. I could not think of a professor who better deserves this recognition. I can only hope that he continues to teach at CSUN for years to come so he can continue to guide and mentor future students.

Sincerely,

Esther Villegas-Sandoval