

February 23, 2012

Dr. Herman Debose, Chair

Department of sociology

Dear DR. Debose:

If there is any professor at CSUN that deserves the Distinguished Teaching Award, it's professor Schutte. His commitment and dedication to the students is unparalleled to anything I have ever seen in twenty years of education. The vast amount of resources he dedicates to his class; as well as, a very flexible schedule of availability makes a rather difficult subject much more comprehensible. The way his class is set up promotes group work and team based study sessions which I found were extremely important when it came to lab work and test preparation. However, on top of finding new study buddies, I found individuals whose friendship I now enjoy on a regular basis. I can't think of any class I have ever studied twenty-five plus hours a week for, but there was never a time when I felt frustrated or confused.

On top of his brilliant class structure, professor Schutte is an amazing individual who promotes a level of comfort that makes everyone feel at ease to talk to him on a personal level. This type of connection creates a very relaxed and friendly environment for learning that lessens the student-professor tension. I honestly couldn't imagine spending six hours of my Sundays at school and the very thought made me cringe. However, professor Schutte's way of presenting the material and the commitment he showed in making people fundamentally understand how they can use the knowledge acquired in the class in their everyday world, actually made me look forward to going to class.

Professor Schutte has not only taught me stats and methods, but has inspired me to seek out questions. These questions are essential for analyzing myself; as well as, finding the truth behind the answers that are in the world around me. From the first day I met professor Schutte, I knew I would have an experience with him that would change my life forever. The knowledge I acquired and the interactions in professor Schutte's class have truly been an inspirational experience for me; hence, I feel privileged to have been mentored by such an amazing individual. I only hope that our paths will cross in the future and I will have the opportunity to enjoy some of Dr. Schutte's classes once more. So, I urge you not to miss out on this opportunity to appreciate such a remarkable individual that does so much for his students.

Sincerely,

Shant Deravanesian

Social Welfare Major

Dear Dr. Debose,

I am writing this letter not only to support Dr. Schutte's nomination for the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award for 2011-12 but to express my unconditional gratitude to him as well. I met Dr. Schutte about three years ago when I was taking the statistics and methods combination class. After I added the class, I read online reviews which seemed comforting; however the idea of having an eight unit seven hour combination class on a Saturday was overwhelming. I contemplated for weeks whether I should drop the class or have the courage to take it. After the first fifteen minutes on the first day of instruction, I made my decision. Dr J, as we referred to him later, made everyone in the class feel comfortable about the upcoming semester. He made it very clear that if any student needed extra help, he would be available anytime to help us understand the material. Soon enough, I realized he was not like other professors who expected their students to do well in class and understand the subject matter simply because they themselves do. Dr. J was encouraging, comforting and did an excellent job taking the time to explain the lessons. Unlike other professors, he never expressed annoyance when students were struggling and needed help with the same lesson. He went above and beyond in making himself accessible to all his students. Throughout the entire semester his office hours turned into extra instruction time for the students who wanted help outside of class. Even though he could have easily spent his office hours sitting comfortably answering questions from a few students, instead he would run review sessions going over the lectures, explaining the material over again until each student gained an understanding. Almost every student would attend his office hours since the material was quite challenging and Dr J truly cared about each individual and always encouraged us to try to the best of our abilities. Besides coming in early and staying past his office hours, he set up extra days especially before tests to help us with questions, not to mention his prompt and thorough email responses to our last minute questions. I remember a student who missing class due to some personal issues and Dr J actually made the effort to contact the student to make sure they do not fall behind. I really have not had the opportunity to meet another professor who truly cares as much about his student's success as Dr J does.

Along with the rest of my classmates, I spent Friday nights before our test on campus preparing until Saturday morning. I remember the time Dr J spent with me, answering all my questions, making sure I understand every detail in order to succeed in his class. I went from being afraid of taking his class to receiving one of the highest grades. However, I know my success was not due to the amount of time I dedicated to the class but to the amount of time Dr J dedicated to me. Dr J helped me believe in my abilities and encouraged me to be more confident in my work. I have recommended him to many students countless times because I believe each student should have such a wonderful opportunity to meet this unique individual. I consider myself truly fortunate to have a mentor like Dr J. I continue to keep contact with him even after my class, and he has only made me appreciate him more. He has given me advice outside of class regarding my career goals, as well as with personal matters.

I truly appreciate Dr J, all his hard work and I take great pride in being acquainted with someone with so many accomplishments. Most of his students know and love him as an amazing professor, but I believe it is a shame how so many people are unaware of the amazing achievement Dr J has acquired and the true visionary that he is. I take such a pride in him, always informing people that my mentor, a professor from the Sociology Department is the first

developer of many great innovations in education. He was the first to develop the idea of online classes, Saturday classes and Sunday classes. He brought the idea of changing the Monday, Wednesday, Fridays school schedule to simply Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. I remember I had not yet had the chance to meet Dr J but I was already a student at CSUN when the changes were announced. I was among the many students who appreciated the idea yet had no idea who made this suggestion and I believe Dr J deserves far more recognition. At the time he was working on his proposal to offer Sunday classes, I had made a visit to his office and was really fascinated to learn about all his successful ideas. It is clear to me that a man capable of such creativity also has the ability to teach in ways that make a combination class of such difficulty, become the most productive subject I have had in my college career.

I have been a student since the age of six and in all sixteen years of school, I have had many amazing teachers and professors but Dr J firmly holds the position of the best professor/teacher I have ever had. I cannot complain about any of the Sociology department professors since I have had great experiences with all but there are so many factors which make Dr J the most accomplished and most deserving of the Distinguished Teaching Award. In my eyes he deserves a Noble Prize since it is not every day we come across someone with such accomplishments. He is not motivated by self interest and does not expect or demand any acknowledgment, however his motivations are pure, altruistic and his character is humble, therefore, he is the best nominee for the award. I simply cannot imagine who would be more deserving of such a high honor and recognition as Dr J is, especially for all his hard work, dedication, creativity and positive influence he has had over his students' lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruzanna Abovyan



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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to nominate Professor Jerald Schutte for the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award 2011-2012. In the Spring of 2011, I enrolled in Professor Schutte's Statistical Methods and Social Research course. As a previous student of Professor Schutte, I can state with a high degree of confidence that he is a committed professor not simply because of the technical knowledge he possesses, but also because of his ability to foster a warm and open learning environment for his student.

Although I do not wish to focus on myself in the body of this letter, I feel that it is important to provide you with some background information on my educational experiences prior to enrolling in Professor Schutte's course. In particular, I want to note that I struggled with Statistics as an undergraduate; to wit, I failed MATH 140 twice. Not surprisingly, I was quite anxious about enrolling in Professor Schutte's course as a result of my previous failings. From the outset, Professor Schutte laid these worries to rest.

He did so by creating a positive learning environment. His manner of speaking and natural ease with students contributed to this. Additionally, he helped quell my worries by instilling hope in me through his unwavering support and kind words. I do not typically establish relationships with professors; however, I felt comfortable with Professor Schutte and thus confided to him some of my personal experiences of growing up in the impoverished community of South Central Los Angeles, sharing with him my motivation to pursue an education. Professor Schutte supported my personal vision and, to this day, I remember what he told me on the last day of class: "Edwin it is an obligation for you to come back and make a change in your community."

I am nominating Professor Schutte for other reasons as well. For example, Professor Schutte is uniquely dedicated to his students. He regularly holds tutoring services for students during his office hours. As a result of these efforts, I gained the confidence and skills needed to pass his course. Aside from this and perhaps more importantly, I continue to maintain a mentor-like relationship with Professor Schutte, which continues to inspire me to pursue my educational dreams.

By being genuine, open, and empathetic toward our diverse class of students, Professor Schutte helped me feel comfortable in the classroom. In fact, these efforts fostered a sense of community. My classmates and I became a cohort of sorts; in my experience as an undergraduate student, Professor Schutte's course was one of few that provided me with this sense of belonging. In retrospect, I see that Professor Schutte's course resembles what I now encounter in the classroom as a graduate student.

In closing, I wish to note that I am now a Masters-level student at New York University. I regularly apply the skills I learned in Professor Schutte's course in my Bilingual School Counseling Program. In this sense, it is no exaggeration to state that Professor Schutte's influence continues to impact me. I wholeheartedly nominate Professor Schutte for the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Sincerely,  
Edwin Hernandez  
New York University  
Bilingual School Counseling M.A. Candidate 2013  
Research Assistant-Immigration Studies @NYU

*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

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

To Herman Debose, Chair Department of sociology,

I would like to give my support for the nomination of Professor Jerald Schutte for the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award for 2011-12. Professor Schutte is not only a wonderful teacher but also a wonderful mentor, friend, and someone I consider family, in fact it feels weird referring to him as Professor Schutte, for I know him as Jerry, because that is the level of comfort he brings to his class and teaching style.

Taking a combined, hybrid, and six hour Sunday class (Soc 364 and Soc 497) seems like a daunting process, but with Jerry at the front of the class it's a walk through the park. I went into the class not expecting much from the professor, or from the students, but after the first hour I knew that Jerry was different, and as a result so was the class; he is one of those rare college professors that actually cares about his student's success. He doesn't say he wants to see you succeed (like most professors), but he shows you by offering his time in many different ways. One way is that he holds office hours, and tries to find a time that the majority of the class are available, these office hours soon turn into a mini class session, because a lot of the students are there, and the material is gone over again and aspects of the class that people are having problems with are gone over in more detail. Another way that he makes himself available is through the eliminate sessions, which are online study sessions that he holds before each exam, so that the material is fresh in our minds. He is also available through email, and will get back to you that same day. This type of availability from a professor is rare, and is much appreciated. He also makes himself available during class time, and during class breaks.

During the class he will stop his lecture and answer questions as students have them he will also provide commentary on comments that students make on something (i.e. if a student ties in a lesson to real life, Jerry will provide more examples or simply agree with that person's example). He also records all of his lectures, and posts them up onto moodle and his webpage, where they become available to students to re-listen to no later than 3 hours after class ends. Also another feature of his class, one that I am very fond of, is he assigns us partners after the first exam, pairing higher percentage students with the lower ones, and the higher one acts sort of like a mentor in studying tips, different ways of remembering things, etc. Jerry also encourages us to form study groups, which I did within the second week, and it was that study group that helped me the most, not with just the material, but with my life, and the problems I was having at the time. I formed lifetime binds with the people in my study group, we still meet every week like we did when we were in class, just to hang out and catch up.

Professor Jerald Schutte is a professor that all professors should take a class from, and learn a thing or two of what it means to actually teach, and not just stand in front of a class reciting facts. Jerry lets his students know he cares through his actions, and when he says "no student left behind" he means it. When he sees someone is struggling, he enlists the help of fellow classmates to help those that are falling behind.

Sincerely a former student,

Danielle Coughlan



February 2012

Chair Department of sociology

Dear Herman Debose,

I am writing this letter in support for Dr. Jerald Schutte for the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award. I was privileged for having Professor Schutte as a professor in the Fall of 2011 every Sunday for six hours. It was a hybrid class of Social Statistics (364) and Methods Research (497). This was the most challenging yet beneficial class I have ever taken. Though this 8 unit 6 hour class seems intimidating, especially for a weekend, the time went by so fast with the way Professor Schutte taught the class.

Professor Schutte is very passionate about what he teaches, and from the first day of class I could see that passion. He seemed like what he was doing was more than just a teaching job, he really cared about his students. Professor Schutte really wants his students to understand, learn, and succeed in the material. Before tests, he would come to school extra days to reach out to all students and their schedules. He was really considerate of our situation as college students and working adults with other responsibilities. When students really needed extra help or understanding of the material, he was there for that. During class lectures and office hours, he made sure to answer any questions or concerns students had. He encouraged all of us to work together as a class and wanted everyone to succeed. Professor Schutte was dedicated to his work and very organized with the class. The homework was presented clearly and so much help and guidance was accessible online. What was really helpful was how he made all his lectures available through podcasts. Professor Schutte did whatever he could to make sure his students would succeed. He provided multiple resources and aids to help understand the class material.

It wasn't just statistics and research methods he taught, but certain ways of thinking and study habits that benefited me and helped me succeed throughout the whole semester and to this day. A lot of what I learned in class I can still recall to this day and can apply to my life. Very few professors have impacted me like professor Schutte has, and his dedication towards his students and passion for teaching is why he deserves the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award.

Sincerely,

Melissa Kieffer

Dear Mr. Debose,

I am writing this letter to you in support of Professor Schutte for CSUN's Distinguished Teaching Award. I was privileged to have Professor Schutte, or as I call him Dr. J, for Social Statistics/Lab, Research Methods/Lab, as well as the internship class. I can honestly say that Dr. J has inspired me in many ways. Not only is he incredibly brilliant, but he also really takes the time to help all of his students understand the material presented (even though it can be extremely difficult!). Dr. J genuinely cares about each and every student in the classroom and always strives to encourage learning and personal growth.

The most difficult yet rewarding class of my undergraduate career was a 6 hour Sunday combination class of social statistics and research methods. The material was quite challenging, but Dr. J always made sure that if anyone was struggling, he would be there. Even if it meant staying late or coming in extra days to help students, he was always there. I also remember prior to our final examination receiving an email from Dr. J giving me that extra support and confidence that I really needed. No other professor has ever taken the time out to give his/her students that extra push and I truly believe it is qualities like this that makes Dr. J one of a kind.

I am currently a student in the Master of Social Work Program at CSUN, and I really attribute much of my gained confidence to Dr. J and his support. I have always struggled with believing in myself, and Dr. J really impacted my life. During my last week in Dr. J's Sunday class, I brought a bulletin board that I had decorated as a thank you for all he had done. I let the other students know that if they wanted to write anything to Dr. J and post in on the board I would be giving it to him at the end of the semester. By the end of the day, the entire bulletin board was completely covered with thank you notes and words of appreciation. Every single person in that class contributed letters of gratitude, and that is truly a testament to Dr. J not only as an incredibly professor, but also as an inspiring individual.

-Erin Wilson

Kathy Somerfield  
Student ID No. 104239159  
(818) 531-8262

February 12, 2012

Herman Debose, Chair  
Department of Sociology  
California State University at Northridge

Dear Dr. Debose:

It has come to my attention that Prof. Jerry Schutte has been nominated for the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award for 2011-12. In this regard, it is truly my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation on his behalf.

Prof. Schutte is one of the finest teachers I have ever had. I took his Statistics class, Soc. 364/497, this past fall. Being mathematically challenged, I honestly believe I would not have passed this class if I had any other teacher for this difficult subject. In the class preceding this one, I found it tortuously boring and intimidating, but his simplified approach to teaching and use of technology made it very interesting, understandable and engaging. Sitting in his class for six hours on Sunday actually became an event I looked forward to each week.

Since then, I'm truly dazzled by the things I encounter on a day to day basis that I learned. It's like I've now been admitted to "the club." I realize that all these things were going on all along, only I didn't speak the language and didn't know that I didn't know. The most blatant example of this is when I was watching a TV show and they said something to the effect that *it's a zero-sum game; one guy's star is rising while the other is diminishing* .... I just about fell over: I actually knew what they were talking about. The thing that really struck me was that this was a re-run which I had seen before, and this comment had completely passed over my head. I was so blown away! I find myself viewing things more critically.

Prof. Schutte's tireless efforts and genuine commitment to his students are the reasons that my classmates and I echo each other when we sing his praises. He really cares about each of his students and wants us to succeed. He was always saying, "We don't leave anyone behind in this class" and to ensure this, he made himself available for office hours every Friday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 and encouraged everyone to attend, whether or not you had a specific question. I always attended because I learned so much from other people's questions as well as my own. But he went way beyond the call of duty during finals. He held office hours every night during that week to help us with our questions and go over the material.

In closing, I would like to say that it is his dedication and caring that made the difference for me. He deserves this award for his tireless efforts and genuine commitment to his students.

Sincerely,  
Kathy Somerfield

Dear Herman Debose,

Someone once said, "A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind and touches a heart." This quote could not be truer of Professor Jerry Schutte's Sociology 364 and 497 classes. Although I was not looking forward to taking an eight hour class on Saturdays, I was grateful that he had fought to get this class, so seniors, like me, could graduate on time. On the first day of class, I sat in a room full of strangers. Our professor introduced himself, told us to call him Jerry and informed us that we would get as much out of this class, as we wanted to put into it. The journey began.

From learning statistical research to mastering the who, what, when and where of science, we worked rigorously to learn the subject. We formed study groups and devoted countless hours outside of class learning the material. Jerry opened his room up for office hours when ever we needed it, scheduled extra meetings during the week for us to attend to get a better understanding of the material and dedicated his free time to meeting with our study group whenever we asked.

Jerry was passionate about his job, the subject, CSUN, but most of all he wanted to see us succeed. He saw the best in all of us, he believed in us, and pushed each of us to do our best whenever we doubted ourselves. Before we knew it the semester was over. I have never worked so hard, or been so proud of a grade in my entire schooling career.

Graduation day came and our study group, who just weeks ago were strangers, sat together as close friends and accepted our diplomas. Jerry shook our hands after our names were read and we celebrated this wonderful achievement in our lives together. Some time has past since my final semester in college. My professional life has now begun, yet, I often think back to that Saturday class and the lessons I learned. Although I learned so much about the subject of sociology that semester, I also learned a lot about life. Lessons I will never forget, important information I will always carry with me. I have Professor Jerry Schutte to thank for that.

A great teacher is someone who teaches from the heart, not from the book; a person who genuinely cares about each student, and takes the time to make sure that they understand the material. These kinds of professors are hard to come by. Jerry Schutte is a great teacher. There is no one more deserving of the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award. He was the best teacher I have ever had. He touched my life. It was a privilege to be apart of his class, and I will remember it for a lifetime.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Chaffee

To: Herman Debose, Chair

Department of Sociology

Regarding: Distinguished Teacher Award- Jerald Schutte

It is a pleasure for me to write this letter for Professor Schutte, who was my Professor in Sociology 364 social Statistics and 497 Methods and Research, in the fall term of 2011. Professor Schutte is without a question one of the three outstanding professors I have had the privilege of knowing in the two years I have been a student at CSU Northridge.

Professor Schutte's class has taught me how to be a careful and creative thinker, which has served me well both in my education at CSU Northridge and outside. He has taught me how to draw on my own experiences and observations to develop thoughtful opinions on a variety of issues. I already knew I wanted to major in Sociology when I took his class but his expertise and helpfulness further deepened my interest in sociology. He allowed me to fully contribute in class discussions, provided a group learning setting and his teaching style allowed me to make some great friendships that will last beyond CSUN. He inspired me to think outside the box and to work in groups, helping me and my classmates to consolidate vast amounts of information into coherent sets of ideas. He was very generous with his time and energies, always willing to stay longer during his office hours to help us with the class assignments. After having such a wonderful experience in his class I registered for his Sociology 496SC class this semester and look forward to working with him again.

Professor Schutte is not only an excellent professor but he is also personally delightful. He is as comfortable a Professor as he is engaging, pleasant, and intelligent. As I got to know Professor Schutte over the semester, I became only more impressed by the wide range of his teaching abilities- and by his modesty about them. He is a master in Sociology and his passion in the subject and for the success of his students is rare.

I wholeheartedly recommend Professor Jerry for the Distinguished Teacher Award. In fact I can only think of a couple Professors I would recommend so highly. His wisdom and sincerity as a Professor is one that I will never forget.

Sincerely,

Iveta Petrosyan

Herman Debose, Chair  
Department of Sociology  
California State University, Northridge

Dear Dr. Debose,

I was one of Professor Jerald Schuttes's undergraduate students in his hybrid Soc 364/497 class in the spring of 2011, at California State University, Northridge. Under his supervision I successfully completed the very high level sixteen week semester of social statistics and social research methodologies. Additionally, I am both pleased and honored to be able to write a letter of recommendation for Jerry.

Jerry is a highly motivated Professor and always goes above and beyond the call of duty. He is completely and utterly devoted to the success of his students, and makes it a point at the beginning of each semester that, "he will not let his students fail" – each other or themselves. Jerry has developed a seamless lesson plan for each of his courses, and monitors the progress of his students regularly. He understands the natural fears and limitations of the class and works tirelessly to increase the level of knowledge and self-confidence within each of his students. Additionally, Jerry encourages his students to give him both negative and positive feedback. He strives to improve anything that could better assist his students and their educational experience. Jerry has proven himself to be a primary example of what a college professor should be and more.

The classroom experience was a truly life-changing experience for me. As a graduating senior on the precipice of graduation, I still found myself confused on all dimensions of life. Jerry took the time to mentor me and instilled upon me a level of self-confidence I that never had. I walked into his class as a fearsome graduating senior afraid of the "real world" and walked out as an adult ready to take charge of my future. I'm fortunate to say, that now I have an amazing career in the field of Market Research, and it's largely in part to the wonderful instruction and dedication of Jerry. I never knew how great of a researcher I would be until I took soc 364/497.

In summary, Jerry has displayed the qualities that make for a perfect recipient of the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award. He is a prime example of what a college professor should be and an excellent example for faculty throughout the university. I truly pride myself in knowing that I had the opportunity of being instructed by one of the best University professors in the CSU system.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosaelena Marquez, B.A.  
Soc 364/497 Alumni Student