

March 1, 2012

Faculty Senate Awards Subcommittee
c/o Christina Brown
Administrative Support Coordinator,
Department of Sociology
California State University, Northridge - 8318

Dear Members of the Faculty Senate Awards Subcommittee:

I am pleased to support the nomination of Professor Jerald G. Schutte for the 2012 Distinguished Teaching Award. I write in support of Professor Schutte's nomination in my role as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, for it is in that capacity that I have had the opportunity to observe his innovative work and accomplishments in several key pedagogical areas. These are described below, and make Professor Schutte a strong candidate for the university's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Professor Schutte is one of the university's pioneers in the use of technology in the classroom. His innovative use of online, hybrid and virtual in-class teaching has enabled many of our students to gain educational benefits that might otherwise have been unattainable and has, through his efforts, facilitated accelerated learning and teaching effectiveness across the disciplines.

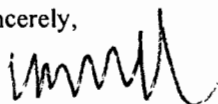
Professor Schutte has been a campus leader in cutting-edge online curriculum design, including condensed course offerings and courses by exam. He has also been an innovator with collaboration including SBE, group testing, and peer instruction, and has published detailed assessments of these techniques. Additionally, Professor Schutte is co-designer of the university's current online schedule of classes.

Throughout my tenure as provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, Professor Schutte has served as an expert consultant to me on various academic technological issues, and his contributions have always been cogent and of considerable value to the institution and to me.

Professor Schutte's commitment to and refinement of the form and content of the university's pedagogy have been superlative. By focusing on faculty dialogue, fostering both technological and pedagogical innovation, and facilitating administrative policy, Professor Schutte has served our students admirably and advanced the mission of Cal State Northridge.

For these reasons, I trust you will give Professor Schutte's nomination for the Distinguished Teaching Award the serious consideration it deserves.

Sincerely,



Harry Hellenbrand
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

HH/eo

cc: Professor Schutte