

To whom it may concern:

I imagine many of these letters speak of a professor's dedication, enthusiasm and affable demeanor. While all of these attributes certainly apply to Professor David Lang I find it nearly impossible to convey my admiration for him. When I arrived at Sacramento State I wasn't quite sure what degree to pursue and it was Dr. Lang's Economics of Education class which assured me I had chosen the right major. Two semesters later, Professor Lang again influenced my decision to pursue graduate work in the field of economics while taking Economic Research Methods. None of this was done in an overt or even purposeful manner, but simply through an almost infectious osmosis by which his humor, superior teaching style and challenging but fair coursework combine to form a powerful teaching method. In a way, Professor Lang was the first one to welcome me to CSUS and the last to see me through to graduation.

Professor Lang is a truly skilled and dedicated teacher and would excel at any institution. He is an absolute asset to Sacramento State and I believe they are incredibly lucky to have him. Some people are born leaders and teachers while others have to work to develop an effective teaching method. Professor Lang combines the best attributes of both groups, bringing structure and rigor to every course while simultaneously infusing them with a sense of dynamism and vitality which leads students to look forward to his classes as a break from the unfortunately widespread monotony of much higher learning today.

Despite his myriad qualities as a professor, it is apart from the classroom that Dr. Lang truly distinguishes himself from most others. The manner in which he reaches out, as he has many times to myself and countless other students, dedicating large amounts of time other teachers would have simply blown off, is incredible. Whether it is in his office or on "off the clock" time around campus, his compassion and respect for students is the most distinguishing characteristic of his dedication and excellence. Whether the concern is academic or otherwise, Professor Lang is seemingly always available to provide a helping hand, a piece of advice or simply an empathetic ear. He is one of the few teachers I would consider not only a mentor but a friend, and is the only professor for which I legitimately plan on maintaining a relationship into the future. At the risk of overstating it, I truly believe people like Dr. Lang are the reason American higher education is still the model for the world and I wholeheartedly recommend him for the SSIS Outstanding Teaching Award.

Sincerely,
Edward Cremata
Graduate Student
CSUS

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