

Reference Letter for Dr. Dawn Kilkenny, Assistant Professor, Institute for Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering for Faculty Teaching Award 2016

24-Jun-2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Dr. Dawn Kilkenny is an exceptional professor at the Institute for Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering (IBBME) at the University of Toronto and her contribution to my education and experience at U of T deserves to be rewarded.

She was my professor for two undergraduate Biomedical Engineering courses during 2013-2014: Physiology and Omics Technologies. Her lecture material focused on how details integrate to form the bigger picture of Physiology and Omics. Professor Kilkenny went out of her way to answer questions posed by students. She designed interactive problem based learning tutorials, encouraging students to participate and apply lecture material to relevant case studies and lab work. The labs used EEG, ECG and EMG which gave the class a sense of the techniques used in clinical biomedical engineering labs. In the Omics Technology course, the lecture material segued nicely into the laboratory practical component, which was designed to expose us to various cell-based lab techniques. For the final design project, my partner and I had minimal experience with cell work. Thus, Dr. Kilkenny put us in contact with graduate students who provided the required resources. She encouraged us to reach out and utilize resources outside of the teaching lab. As a result, my partner and I learned about how research labs conduct experiments and successfully completed the project. Furthermore, this experience taught us the very important skill of seeking out resources. I have used that skill during my PEY, Capstone, Thesis and now Master's project to contact experts for advice, and acquire engineering skills.

Additionally, she has provided constant guidance regarding my future academic career plans. She genuinely cares about her students and their success in the future and that shows with her welcoming personality where she imparts her wisdom onto us.

She also had a large role in updating the IBBME teaching lab by implementing new, state of the art technology. Professor Kilkenny recognized a need in the learning space and, within just a couple of years, enabled a smoother learning environment where students can focus on learning about the scientific techniques and analysis of the lab rather than debugging microscope errors and being unable to see over a crowded room of students.

I really hope she receives this award because in my five years in Engineering at U of T I feel that she is the professor that I will remember and whose door will always be open for her students.

Sincerely,

Arushri Swarup