March 4, 2013

To: Scholarship Committee

Esteban Ibarra has asked me to write a letter in support of his application for the Association of Raza Educators Scholarship for Undocumented College Students 2013-2014. I am happy to do so. I have known Esteban since last year. He was a student of mine in Introduction to Social Problems Fall 2012. Even though, I have only known him a short time, I feel that I can comment on several factors that would be important for making a determination about Esteban’s application.

Esteban excelled academically in the course. He got an A on each of the three exams and full credit for the out of class assignments. He received an A in the course where the grade average was 2.6. Despite the size of the class, I got to know Esteban better than most of the students. This was through the out of class assignments. I give the students a series of documentaries to view and then have them come to office hours to talk with me about them. Esteban demonstrated a real interest in the documentaries, and a genuine interest in learning, and demonstrated in my opinion a commitment to helping others, especially those that are less fortunate in our society.

I believe Esteban would be an excellent choice for the scholarship and hope that my letter reflects that belief. If I can be of any further help, please let me know. I can be reached at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu) or 619-594-5906.

Sincerely,

Paul Tom Semm

Professor of Sociology

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