Oct 10,2012

To: Admissions Committee

I am writing a letter of recommendation in support of Jamie Marliere’s application for admission to the Loma Linda University Master’s in Public Health, Health Education program. I have been teaching in the Sociology Department at San Diego State for sixteen years and have taught lower division, upper division and graduate courses. Jamie was a student of mine in three upper division courses, Classical Social Theory, Contemporary Social Theory and Wealth Status and Power. The means of evaluation was comprehensive in each of these courses; they involved exams, papers and presentations. So I believe I can comment on Jamie’s academic abilities. Also during the time that she was a student, I wrote several of letters of recommendation in support of scholarship applications. In our discussions about these scholarships, I learned quite a bit about Jamie as a person. And I think I can comment on that also.

Jamie is one of the top three or four students that I have taught at San Diego State (of approximately 5000). And I mean “student” in the broadest sense. Jamie was selected by the faculty of the department as the Outstanding Graduating Senior two years ago. This was a virtual unanimous and well-deserved choice. In the courses that Jamie took with me, she had the highest total score in each one. She had the highest exam scores and she wrote the best papers. She also gave the best presentations, both the most informed and the most articulate. But it was not just her performance in these evaluative areas that made an impression on me. It was her obvious desire and commitment to learn. Jamie came to office hours on a regular basis, demonstrated a genuine interest in the material being covered, asked informed and intelligent questions about the issues that were raised in class, and read well beyond the assignment material.

I was also impressed with Jaime’s work ethic and character. During discussions I had with her about scholarship applications, I learned that she was not receiving any financial help from her parents, and that she was supporting herself through work and scholarships while maintaining a 4.0 average. She never complained about her situation, never had anything but a positive attitude about school and life. I believe Jamie is a exceptional person who would excel in any field she chose to enter and would do well in the MPH, Health Education program. I give her my highest recommendation without qualification. If I can be of any further help, I can be reached at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu), or 619-594-5906.

P. Tom Semm

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