November 25, 2010

To: Admissions Committee

Community-Based Block Cross-Cultural Counseling Program

Tina Bell has asked me to write a letter of recommendation in support of her application for admission to the Community-Based Block counseling program in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology at San Diego State University. Tina is one of those students who make teaching worthwhile. I have known her for three years and during that time I have seen her mature as a person and expand her knowledge base and refine her intellectual skills. She was a student of mine in three courses in the Sociology Department at San Diego State University. She took Introduction to Social Problems in her early years at SDSU, later she took two upper division courses, Collective Behavior and Social Theory.

I believe that Tina is in the top 10% academically of students that I have taught at SDSU, several thousand in fourteen years. All of her papers were well written, her exam scores were always good, she made positive contributions to the class discussions, and she interacted well with other students in the class and also interacts well with faculty. I got to know her on a more personal level because she came to office hours to discuss issues that were raised in the class. Perhaps what I learned about her in these interactions is as important for the program as her academic ability. I noticed that she had a sincere interest in and concern for the problems that others face, especially problems of poverty, race and gender. And as she continued in school, our discussions revealed that she had become more involved in the community, and deeply committed to helping others.

Watching her grow as a student and as a person, as I said earlier, has been rewarding for me as a teacher. Tina is intelligent, thoughtful, kind and engaged. I believe she and the Community-Based Block program would be a perfect match. I highly recommend her without qualification. If I can be of further assistance I can be reached by email at [psemm@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:psemm@mail.sdsu.edu) or at my office phone 594-5906.

Sincerely,

Paul Tom Semm

Lecturer, Department of Sociology

San Diego State University