



UA SOUTH

1140 N. Colombo Avenue
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Office: 520-458-8235
Cell: 520-360-9342

URL: uas.arizona.edu

April 16, 2019

Distinguished Fellowship Review Committee
Center for University Education Scholarship (CUES)
University of Arizona

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to confirm my support for Dr. Ryan Straight's application for the Center for University Education Scholarship (CUES) Distinguished Fellowship. Ryan's passion for this project has been apparent over the past three years with the award of the Innovative Learning Project offered through the Classroom Technology Upgrade Program. He took this grand challenge to heart by using a common application (SLACK) for building and maintaining a community in the online classroom environment. The engagement he created among his students has been transformative and led to authentic conversations building robust communities among students and faculty.

Ryan has proved himself to be a leader within our college and on our campus in Sierra Vista. He is a Faculty Fellow representing UA South by fostering student-faculty relationships. His presence is felt in both the face to face and virtual settings as he travels from our various locations to attend events and meet with students. He works seamlessly alongside faculty, students and staff in creating an infectious energy embraced by our communities. He also has made a positive impact on the national stage through his scholarship and service by presenting at online conferences and broadcasting podcasts.

The opportunity for collaboration and resource sharing with this proposal's activity include research opportunities, faculty development, the introduction of innovative technologies, and genuine communication within the online environments. This type of academic collaboration is beneficial to faculty in learning about new teaching tools, and to the students in increasing the breadth of their knowledge and learning different approaches to innovative interactions in online settings.

I am in strong support of Ryan's application and encourage the committee to provide him with this unique opportunity. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about this letter of recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Melody J. Buckner'.

Melody J. Buckner, PhD
Interim Dean, UA South
Senior Director of Digital Learning and Online Education
Faculty Affiliate, College of Education
University of Arizona