

To whom it may concern:

In fall of 2014, I enrolled in Dr. Young's Human Capital course, something I had been putting off as long as possible. Its reputation in the Knoebel School is well known. It challenges students on many levels while also allowing us an opportunity to gain practical experience through mentorship of a non-native English-speaking refugee.

The partnership between the African Community Center (ACC) in Denver and the Knoebel School started because of Dr. Young, and the Commercial Food and Safety Service Training Program (CFaSST) helps teach refugees the basics of kitchen safety to prepare them for an entry-level hospitality job. As hospitality students, we offer guidance during this program, but sometimes it can be difficult.

The struggles of mentorship are a part of the course's reputation. A protégé who speaks very little English is much more challenging to guide than a protégé who has strong English skills. In this area of communication, or lack thereof, Dr. Young excels.

From the day we met our protégés, until their graduation, Dr. Young was there to give us pointers: talk slower, draw a picture, ask them to repeat what was said. Like many of the students in this class, I had no experience working with refugees. In this sense, I felt ill equipped for this course.

Seeing her relentless energy and passion for this program was contagious. It rubbed off on me and changed my attitude toward class. I tried harder, and spent more time on this class because of the opportunity excellent training can give someone. In class, I kept an open mind and tried to be a resource for as many students as possible.

The experience of making an impact in someone's life was humbling to say the least. I went into the course hoping for an A, and soon realized the grade was not the

most important aspect. Without Dr. Young, I would not have known the boundaries of communication. My experience is one of hundreds as this program has continued to grow over the years. I believe for the work done in this program, and what is done for students, Dr. Young is a well deserving candidate for the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Best,

Sam Blinderman