



**DANIELS**  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
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FRITZ KNOEBEL SCHOOL OF  
HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Dr. Cheri Young, Ph.D., who is being nominated for the United Methodist Church—University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award. This award recognizes excellence in teaching by an adjunct faculty member. While this description immediately made me think of Cheri, it does not even begin to describe Cheri's skills and abilities both in and out of the classroom.

I first met Dr. Young outside of class as an employee at Beans Coffee Shop. Although I had never taken a course with Cheri, she made the effort to remember who I was and was always a friendly face to our entire staff. I then enrolled in Cheri's course HRTM 2501: Managing Human Capital in Hospitality. This course partners with the African Community Center (ACC) and pairs each student with a refugee that has fled his or her home country. The students mentor their new protégés on many aspects of American society, and focus on things relevant to job applications, such as effective handshakes, strong introductions, and how to describe themselves in a job interview. This course was the most beneficial course I have taken in college, and I attribute that wonderful experience to Cheri. Never have I had another professor who is effective in getting the material across while keeping the class engaged. Unlike many other courses, when our time was up in Cheri's class, I was surprised and disappointed at how quickly the time had passed. One of the reasons that Cheri is such an excellent professor is her ability to explain challenging concepts in many different ways in order to appeal to all types of learners. While her courses are extremely rigorous, Cheri makes herself readily available for help outside of class. This willingness to assist in the learning of her students makes it evident how much she values us and wants to help us succeed.

Outside of class, Cheri is just knowledgeable and supportive of the Knoebel students. On more than one occasion, I have come to Cheri for professional advice and she has always steered me in the right direction. In the fall, we both attended the Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association's Stars of the Industry awards luncheon at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Cheri made a point of introducing me to many industry professionals to aid me in developing those contacts and searching for a post-graduation job. Besides being interested in my personal development, Cheri is in-tune with my strengths as a student and an employee and selected me to assist in a huge event being planned for the spring in conjunction with the Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning (CCESL). I will be assisting Cheri in planning a gala that combines three courses in the Knoebel School: the introductory Event Sales and Services course will create the vision for the event, our Food and Beverage area of focus course titled Contemporary Cuisine will be in charge of the menu and staff for the event, and Cheri's own Human Capital course will provide training for the protégés of the spring to work the event. This event will provide excellent real-world experience for students and focuses on truly giving back to the community.

Cheri has an almost superhuman ability to assess the needs of those around her and she puts her heart into assisting all those she interacts with. Meeting her as a barista at Beans, I never imagined that Cheri would become such a mentor and role model to me. When I am in a predicament, whether it is what shoes to wear to an interview or how long I should wait to follow up with a company, I think to myself, "What would Cheri do?" Fortunately, I do not have to merely wonder because Cheri is so willing to answer these questions for me. I am constantly thankful that The Knoebel School hired Cheri, and there is no doubt in my mind that she is highly deserving of the United Methodist Church—University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award.

Best Regards,

Grace Bradford  
Daniels College of Business  
Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management  
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