

February 5, 2014

To the University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award Nomination Committee:

I am honored to write on behalf of Dr. Cheri Young at the Knoebel School of Hospitality Management at the University of Denver. I have had the absolute pleasure of getting to know Dr. Young as a professor and mentor figure, and majorly regret not reaching out to her before I registered for her Managing Human Capital course during my final year at DU.

I walked into her classroom on the first day of the quarter and the room felt different. I had taken many classes in room 308, but on that day there was anticipation suspended in the room and a crisp feeling of excitement. I had heard much about the course: the serious time commitment, the mentorship component, and the rigor of the grading—I was intimidated. And then Dr. Young swiftly made her entrance, and I instantly was captivated.

What stuns me about Dr. Young is that her intelligence, care, and concern make her an exceptional professor and role model, unlike anything I have seen in a professor. Her curriculum and teaching style shows the immense amount of time and heart she puts into her career and into her students' futures. When posed with a tough situation or problem (school, career, or life-related), my roommates and I ask ourselves, "*What Would Cheri Do?*" We value her opinion and thought process and "*WWCD*" shows the amount of respect and admiration we have for her, with a touch of humor.

Dr. Young is the driving force of the success of students at the Knoebel School. She challenges us as 20-somethings with real life situations by making us mentors when partnering with the refugees of Denver's African Community Center in Managing Human Capital. Training and leading our own protégé was like no other classroom assignment. We are truly students in a private university dedicated to the public good under Dr. Young's teaching.

Throughout my quarter in Dr. Young's course, I found myself aspiring to be like her. She delights in her students, and has an incredible ability to engage the least engaged, motivate the unmotivated, and create an intense learning environment. Her past work in the industry and the work she has done at DU shows that she is a level above the rest. I know that at any time I could seek Dr. Young's advice, comfort, or knowledge, and that she would take time for me or any other student. It takes someone special to be able to be so approachable and warm, yet professional and honest.

I believe that Dr. Young is beyond deserving of this award, as her compassion shines as one of the brightest in the Knoebel School. She is truly a guiding light for my personal education, experience at DU, and future in the hospitality industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

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