

Writing this letter of support for Dr. Cheri Young's nomination for the University of Denver Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award is a great privilege. I have grown personally as a student, leader and individual because of her mentorship inside and outside of the classroom. Dr. Young has had, and continues to have a tremendous impact on my life, and the lives of my fellow classmates everyday. She is completely selfless and would drop anything to help current, former, and graduated students with anything they might need, whether it be academic, personal or professional; she is truly invested in her students in every capacity.

For 150 years the University of Denver has been dedicated to public good. There is no better example of an individual than Dr. Young striving to better the community around her. Through the partnership she has formed with the African Community Center of Denver and the Knoebel School, Dr. Young demonstrates in all capacities serving public good. Through this partnership, DU students are paired with African refugees to help train and develop their skills in order to become desirable candidates for employers. Not only has this program helped countless African refugees build a solid footing for their future in the United States, but has taught students how to manage employees in a real-life setting. This program does not only serve as a learning curve for students, or a platform for others to learn, but this program serves the community, by providing individuals with the proper training and skills needed to successfully be placed in a job.

As a scholar and professional in her field of human resources, specifically in hospitality, Dr. Young sets high expectations for her students, but she will not leave them without guidance. Before taking her course on Managing Human Capital, I had only heard of the negatives of the course, how difficult it would be, and how much time it required, yet I had not heard anything of the professor of the course, Dr. Young. Given the external hearsay, I walked into class with the

mindset that the course was going to be impossible to complete, in terms of assignments and the required time to work with African refugees. Dr. Young was very honest and straight-forward at the beginning of the course expressing the course would be difficult and would be time consuming, however, she also made an important point to highlight its reward at the end. At the time I was overwhelmed with the fact that I was going to be responsible for training and developing my own African protégé for the next five weeks, and I was going to be assessed on how well I would train, develop, and socialize my protégé to become an attractive candidate for an hourly position within the hospitality industry. I quickly realized how true all of the above were, but I could not have completed this course successfully without the help of Dr. Young. Throughout the course she explained she knew what she was asking us to do seemed impossible, however, she challenged each and every student to rise to the occasion. Dr. Young did not only administer the assignments and lecture about human capital, but she enabled us to practice what we were learning on actual human capital (our African proteges). Personally, the way I knew I was truly learning was half way through the course I forgot working with my protégé and tracking her progress was a part of a class and course grade. Dr. Young sincerely enables her students to be better and be the best they can be. Dr. Young's dedication to scholastic learning is shown through her Human Capital course, as she has designed it in a unique way to truly make her students critically think, gain a global perspective, and provide a real-life account for what it means to be a manager of human capital.

Dr. Young's work in the classroom goes without saying- she is compassionate, driven, reflective and incredibly smart. Throughout the quarter I was in her course, I was fortunate enough to develop a personal relationship with Dr. Young. Dr. Young has truly impacted my life not only as a professor, but as an individual and mentor. Dr. Young makes one feel worthy,

confident, smart and makes a conscious effort to empower her students to strive to do better not only for themselves, but for the betterment of others. Dr. Young has an unexplainable aura about her that one must experience to understand the kind of person she truly is. Whether it is asking for clarification on an assignment or her help in prepping students for the Knoebel School's annual career fair, she possesses the ability to shape her students to become confident leaders and reflective, stronger individuals. She truly embodies everything the Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management stands for, "Be Bold. Do Good. Change Lives." She has a bold personality and is not afraid to tell it like it is. However I can say it only comes from a place of compassion. She serves the Greater Denver area by aiding in changing the lives of individuals who seek out the American Dream. Not only does Dr. Young lead by example through living the vision of the Knoebel School, but challenges every individual she crosses to live by the vision.

I can honestly say Dr. Young has quickly become an influential figure in my life. Dr. Young has not and does not only challenge me to be a better person, but has made me a better person. Dr. Young has the ability to connect with many individuals and identify their individual talents, even if they do not realize they have them. For this reason, Dr. Young did not only challenge me to my limits, but helped me recognize the type of individual I am. I am forever grateful for the lessons, skills, and advice. Dr. Young has taught me many skills necessary to be a successful manager of human capital, but has also equipped me with lessons and advice as a graduating senior. I know I am not the only individual that has gained so much from Dr. Young; she has the ability to convey that notion to each individual in a different way. She makes everyone feel special and is able to instill sustainable awareness inside her students to continue on as confident, independent and reflective individuals. I truly cannot think of a more deserving professor to be recognized for all of her hard work inside the classroom, dedication to innovative

teaching and learning, but also her compassionate nature and genuine care to see her students succeed. Dr. Young has an eye to spot an individual's gifts and understands how to make individuals aware of their talents; her ability to do so is what makes her such a successful, relatable, and compassionate professor. Dr. Young has given me so much in such little time I can only hope to one day be as half as a good person as she is and one day touch as half as many lives she has touched.

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