

March 19, 2016

Dear Faculty Advising Award Selection Committee,

I am writing to support Dr. James Hodges for an advising excellence award. I completed all of my degrees at University of Minnesota and I am a former student of Jim's while I earned my doctorate in the School of Public Health. Jim offered to assist me with my dissertation research and was also a mentor to me. I have had two outstanding educators in my life and Jim and was one of them. Not only was Jim an outstanding instructor, but I also credit his mentorship for the completion of my doctorate in Environmental Health and for obtaining two scientific research positions post graduation.

Jim has many outstanding qualities as an instructor and advisor. He explained concepts thoroughly and in an engaging manner, clearly conveying his passion for research and for statistical methods. He successfully connected difficult statistical concepts to the real world in a manner that blended professionalism and personal connection. It was very clear that Jim puts the needs of his students above all else, tailoring the learning environment to diverse learning styles and levels of understanding. Jim was unfailingly patient with the barrage of questions that I had as a student and continue to ask him to this day. Not only did I learn the nuances of statistical theory and application, I also acquired an impressive suite of analytical skills under Jim's tutelage.

Finally, as a research mentor, Jim guided our research team through the scientific process without micro managing or providing too many answers. He always prodded me to work through problems, encouraging the process of learning. His sense of humor and endless resources on statistical analysis and literature made me feel well supported and free to creatively explore my data. Jim has an impressive scholarly record which is further supported by his integration of teaching and research. I look back on the research I completed with Jim as a foundation to my graduate work and the beginning of my passion for public health.

I have used Jim's mentoring style, technique, and approach in my own mentoring as an instructor at Columbia University and as a Principle Investigator at EcoHealth Alliance. In this way, Jim's influence extends beyond his effect on my learning to the learning of my students. I enthusiastically believe Jim is worthy of recognition for his teaching and mentorship. In over 250 credits of undergraduate and graduate coursework, I cannot think of a professor that is more deserving of this award. We remain connected after 4 years because I consider him an ongoing mentor and colleague. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any further questions. Jim is an inspiration to all aspiring academics.

Cheers,



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