# Letter C: Symons Award Nomination Written by an Undergraduate Student

**Note that all identifying information has been removed and gendered pronouns have been changed to they/them.**

I had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a professor for the first time in second year for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I remember walking in and thinking, “oh no, another \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ course”. As a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ student, I knew that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was going to be a core component of my degree, and I was prepared for it even though I did not have a love for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like many others do. From the very first lecture, I felt at ease. \_\_\_\_\_\_ very clearly laid out their expectations from us as students, and similarly gave us expectations for them as our professor. They use technology in their classroom, which is very fitting for the current day and age. They mirror their tablet to the screen and write in notes that aren't provided for us in the posted lecture notes. This holds us accountable as students to come to lecture and gather the information needed for testing and assignments. They are always open to questions and helps further understanding for students. They are extremely available for extra help, which many professors are not.

After my first course with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I completely reworked my degree so that I could take more courses with them. And as a student that began her undergrad with a dislike for \_\_\_\_\_\_, I am currently taking a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_course as an elective. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_'s love for teaching and encouraging demeanor became even more evident during the fall semester of 2020. Everyone was very uncertain what the semester would hold. Would professors be available to help? Or would we be set free with our computers and wished good luck? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was exactly what I and many other students needed during our first semester of the "new normal". They did a "flipped classroom" approach, where we would watch recorded lecture videos, take notes, and take a quiz on that presented material. Then, we would have a one-hour synchronous lecture that presented new material (which would be quizzed on later that week). They were able to offer lab assignments for non-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ majors that complimented the course material nicely and helped further my understanding of the topics being covered.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a tough, but kind professor. They expect quality work and the way they mark assignments reflects that. This has discouraged me in the past as I was a student in high school that got 95's with little to no effort. But \_\_\_\_\_ has made me realize my actual potential as a student and has pushed me to work hard and earn the grades that I am so capable of earning when I put in the work. One specific interaction we had was early on in the fall semester during their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ course. I was doing the lectures, watching the videos, then I would do the assigned quiz and got 50-60%. I was so discouraged and frustrated with my marks, and I expressed that to them, so we scheduled a zoom call. They asked me specifically how I was going through the material (doing all the videos as once vs spacing them out, typing vs writing notes, etc), and asked me if I would be open to completely changing my approach to the material. Sure enough, the next week I went through the material in a completely different way and got a 95 on the quiz. Was it a fluke? I thought maybe so. But from then to the end of the course I received higher than 85 on all the quizzes.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_is an absolutely amazing professor. They made me realize my full potential as a student and forced me to work harder in all aspects of my life. I think that they are so deserving of this award, as their passion for teaching is evidence, but so is their passion for their students, which is sometimes hard to come by.

Thank you for reading!