

Dear Sir or Madam:

I was very happy to hear that Kate Nesbit has been nominated for a teaching award. None of my teachers have been more deserving of an award than her. As a student in her Rhetoric course at the University of Iowa, I got to know her very well over the course of the semester.

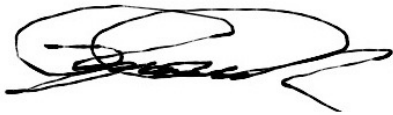
Kate's natural ability to make everyone feel comfortable in her classroom created a great environment for learning. She was able to make a classroom full of students from very different backgrounds and majors comfortable to converse and participate in activities and discussions. I have never had a teacher who valued personal relationships with students more than her.

Kate employed many strategies to get to know her students personally. Every morning at the start of class, Kate would ask us all to answer a question about ourselves. Doing this at the beginning of the early morning class got everyone's attention and interest for the rest of the day. As the year went on, I found I knew more about my Rhetoric classmates than I did students in my major.

In a class that is centered on student conversation, I feel that most teachers find it difficult to keep students motivated and on topic throughout a discussion. Other professors I have had either take over the discussion themselves or do not help stimulate the conversation at all. Kate did a fantastic job pushing us in the right direction, interjecting with thoughtful comments, while urging us to continue voicing our opinions.

She also made great use of many different teaching styles to ensure that her course was constantly changing. Kate implemented many forms of technology throughout the course. This allowed the presentation of material and the organization of discussions to be unique each day, keeping everyone interested and involved. Kate's unique presentation of information and knack for making her students comfortable voicing their opinions made for one of the most compelling courses I have been in. I believe I speak for my entire class when I say that Kate Nesbit is most deserving of an award for excellent teaching.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Pencak', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Ryan Pencak