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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong recommendation for Mr. Ryan Furlong for the Outstanding Teachers Award. I have known Mr. Furlong since August 2018 when I was a student in his Interpretation of Literature class this past fall semester. I am currently a senior, Marketing major with an International Business Certificate and Spanish minor graduating in May of 2018. Mr. Furlong made Interpretation of Literature one of the most influential classes of my college career through his encouragement of participation, open-mindedness, and dedication to his students.

From the first day, Mr. Furlong encouraged students to participate. There is the stigma of always searching for the "right" answer, however, Mr. Furlong assured us that no matter what we said, our thoughts were welcomed and appreciated. He helped us to expand on our ideas and asked us questions that allowed us to evoke deeper thought into the ideas we presented. He also provided alternate opportunities for participation in the case that someone was not comfortable sharing their thoughts in class. Our classroom was a safe space for all to add their input.

One of the ongoing methods Mr. Furlong used throughout the semester was viewing an idea from a different perspective. Mr. Furlong encouraged us to put ourselves in the places of the authors understanding their time periods, viewpoints, and opinions. He also implemented collaborative work in which we were able to get to know our peers as well as listen to their perspectives and interpretations regarding the texts we were assigned in class. Mr. Furlong related the importance of listening and understanding other's viewpoints to situations in modern day life making it a life lesson that we could all relate to and apply.

There wasn't a day that passed that Mr. Furlong didn't show his dedication and commitment to his students. He was always prepared for class, knowledgeable about the materials, and able to personalize explanations and discussions to each student in order to ensure they were learning the material to the best of their ability. Mr. Furlong always held office hours and encouraged students to attend in order to make personal connections with students. During office hours, he would also provide feedback and clarification on papers and written assignments. In every interaction I have had with Mr. Furlong, his insight and advice has been personal and genuine.

I could not recommend Mr. Furlong more for the Outstanding Teachers Award. His dedication and commitment to his students shines in every class. I will be carrying his advice and insights with me as I begin a full-time position after graduation.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Brettnacher, Senior Marketing Student