

Sambhara, Chaitanya

From: Sambhara, Chaitanya <sambhack@miamioh.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 4:08 PM
To: Sambhara, Chaitanya
Subject: Fwd: Faculty Staff Commendations

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From: Center for Teaching Excellence <cte@miamioh.edu>
Date: Thu, Jan 24, 2019 at 4:35 PM
Subject: Faculty Staff Commendations
To: <SAMBHACK@miamioh.edu>

Dear Chaitanya Sambhara:

At the end of the 2017-18 academic year, Miami University asked graduating students (undergraduates and graduate students) to complete a survey when they confirmed their mailing address for their diplomas. Among the prompts on the survey were:

- Please identify any faculty or staff members who made a positive impact on your learning and development while at Miami University. This information will be used to send letters of commendation to faculty and staff.
- Please share a brief explanation of how the individual(s) identified above made a positive impact on your learning and development.

As a university we can be proud that well over half of the respondents were able to identify specific faculty/staff who influenced their learning and development. Not all students left specific comments, and we do not know the names or identities of the respondents. However, students said the following things about the impact that you have had on them:

COMMENT: Always looks out for the students. Is genuinely interested in our success.

COMMENT: Chai challenged me to think outside the box and to look at things differently. He was always honest, even when the truth hurt, and this made me work harder than I ever had. He was always willing to help me think through things and was definitely not a teacher to just give

you the answer. He made me work for everything and was always there to give me the push I needed. He made me realize that I had a tendency to overthink things so he worked with me to simplify my problems so that I was using my time better. Because of Chai I am able to take a step back and analyze my problems from the outside and find a solution that I wouldn't typically think of right away.

COMMENT: Chai was a great teacher and I always looked forward to his class. It helped me quite a bit in my internship as well.

COMMENT: Helpful in identifying potential career areas and supporting my education planning outside of class.

COMMENT: Professor Sambhara was very dedicated to every single one of his students. He taught a class that was not the most interesting, but he made it very fun to show up to class every week, and I couldn't recommend him as a professor more. He was extremely helpful in office hours, but he cared so much about his students' learning that he never gave someone the answer when they came for help. Everything we did in the class served a purpose, and it is all beneficial in the future for my career.

COMMENT: Really genuinely cared about his students and their learning process.

COMMENT: Truly cares for his students and wants to see them succeed. He better our skills by challenging us to be the best we can, not only in class but in the real world. Amazing personality and a wonderful. By far, my favorite professor here at Miami.

COMMENT: While I was a TA for Chai, he took the role of being more than just my boss but gave me so much advice about school and my future career. I'm not sure if I would be as successful as I am if it wasn't for him. Besides teaching me valuable things in class that I use everyday for work, he really helped and gave me the subtle push I needed while job searching. He's so real and not afraid to be honest about what he's gone through leading up to his success at Miami. I'll never forget when he told me his theory for this role he took on... he said his mentor once told him that when he's teaching students grad students to treat them as your peers but when teaching undergrad treat them as if they were your own children, and he really did care about his students and exemplified this

COMMENT: Chai had a positive impact on my learning and development due to his thorough teaching style. Chai continually pushed the logic surrounding information systems and database management. In addition, Chai sought out to focus on the things that would make a difference in our professional lives. Chai also focused on the things that employers would expect or want you to know during interviews. I think that Chai was one of the most (if not the most) thorough lecturers I have encountered.

We have copied this message to those who we think should know that you were commended. Please feel free to share this information with anyone else whom you believe should receive it. Tweet it (#MiamiOHCommendations @MiamiCTE). Post it. Share it. Spread the word. We are so proud of you!

On behalf of Miami, I want to express our gratitude for the work that you have done to positively influence our students' education. Student's growth in knowledge, skills, and habits of mind has made a meaningful difference in their lives and will positively affect others in their communities. Please know that your commitment to students and their learning is valued, and you are to be heartily congratulated on the honor of receiving a commendation. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ellen Yeziarski

Director

Center for Teaching Excellence

This letter will be sent to:

John Benamati

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