4 January 2011

To the Bynum Mentor Selection Committee:

As a former student and current research assistant of Dr. Leslie Ashburn-Nardo, I am writing with great pleasure to recommend her for the Bynum Mentor Award. I have known Dr. Ashburn-Nardo since the spring semester of 2010 when she was the instructor of two courses that I enrolled in. During that semester I joined her laboratory as a research assistant, and benefited from her instruction and guidance. Over the subsequent summer and throughout the fall semester, I have grown to know Dr. Ashburn-Nardo even more as she has mentored me on an honors thesis project. I am confident recommending her for this award.

Dr. Ashburn-Nardo is a dedicated mentor. I have witnessed her stimulate the learning and growth of several students since I joined her lab. Some of those students have been successful in realizing their potential and goals and are continuing their education in graduate school. Other students have realized that, perhaps, psychology is not the future for them, and Dr. Ashburn-Nardo has been available to help them explore other areas of education. For me personally, I have benefited from Dr. Ashburn-Nardo's knowledge and commitment to mentoring as I have made decisions designing my research project and pursuing my goals of a continuing education. I believe it has been her commitment to students that has allowed her to establish such an outstanding record of assisting so many.

As a dedicated mentor, Dr. Ashburn-Nardo, does a phenomenal job of providing students with opportunities. Her professionalism in the lab provides students with the opportunity to meet expectations equivalent of a career or graduate school. She has been eager to provide several students with the opportunity to attend both professional and undergraduate conferences and present research findings—both a challenge and opportunity for professional development. Every semester she provides the opportunity for students to develop friendships and professional relationships by organizing a social event for the members of her lab. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Dr. Ashburn-Nardo goes beyond the basic requirements to provide students with her time, allowing them the opportunity to learn from her example and her knowledge.

I highly and happily recommend, Dr. Leslie Ashburn-Nardo, for the Bynum Mentor Award. It is my hope that some of her commitment and dedication to mentoring students will be recognized through such an award; I have no doubt that she is worthy of the honor.

Sincerely,

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