January 12, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing a letter of support for Dr. Robert R. Bringle's nomination for the IUPUI Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Bringle is deserving of this great honor from the University for his excellent and unparalleled teaching ability. I have known Dr. Bringle for approximately five years, and have worked with him in several different capacities: as a student; as a teaching/research assistant, as a graduate assistant; and as a mentee.

In 2006, I was a student of his in the Capstone Laboratory in Social Psychology. The Capstone course allows the student to draft and implement his/her own social psychological research study, from start to finish. This task of conducting original research is no easy task for an undergraduate, but Dr. Bringle conducts the course in such a way as allow the student to grasp otherwise foreign concepts, and works with students on a one-on-one basis to successfully complete their projects. I had never experienced a class during my undergraduate career at IUPUI that allowed the student to chart their own course, and Dr. Bringle was there to facilitate the individualized learning that occurred.

After I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree, Dr. Bringle asked me to be a teaching assistant for the capstone course, which I did for three consecutive years. Working with Dr. Bringle as an instructor was a wonderful experience. It was during this time that I fully witnessed the process of transforming senior undergraduate students into competent social researchers.

While working on my Master's Degree, I was hired as a Graduate Assistant by Dr. Bringle for the newly created Center for Service & Learning Research Collaborative. During this time, I was mentored by Dr. Bringle in social research in service learning scholarship, and was granted the opportunity to plan and implement several national meetings and conferences. I am a co-author with Dr. Bringle on several publications, including a chapter on quantitative research methods in the edited volume, *International service learning: Conceptual frameworks and research* (Stylus Publishing). I also co-presented a session on statistical analyses in service learning research at the IUPUI Research Academy in May 2009.

In closing, Dr. Bringle is a wonderful and well-respected professor and mentor, and was an integral part of my college career as an undergraduate and graduate student. I have gained many skills in research and scholarship as a direct result of working alongside Dr. Bringle. I do not feel as though I can truly express how grateful I am to have been mentored by Dr. Bringle, but I deeply believe that he is deserving of the IUPUI Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Best regards,

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