

To Whom It May Concern,

During my senior year at Western Washington University, I entered Mark Staton's class not sure what to think. Instead of a prior reading before class, I was asked to start a WordPress blog. Instead of text books, I had web articles and twitter feeds to read. And instead of a final, I was instead Google Analytics certified.

What Mark brings to the table is not only a wealth of knowledge, but actionable projects that build invaluable experience for his students. Because of my blog, I was able to work as a freelance content strategist, and then use it as a marketing tool during my time as Miss Washington 2015. Mark's teaching style was laid back and workshop based, bringing in alumni working in various roles correlating with each unit of study, allowing us to have a person to aspire to as we worked in his class. I am fortunate enough to be one of those alumni who come back each quarter to speak to the latest class. Mark is constantly improving his class, keeping in close contact with all the alums to make his class relevant to the next class. This quarter now has interactive design and UX; something that I would have loved to learn while I was there.

At the end of the day, Mark cares about his students, and only wants to give them the best tools to succeed. He gives so much of himself, whether its software subscriptions, office time, or a late night email from a student to show that he places his students first.

His level of teaching is not only excellent, it is extraordinary and rare. You will not regret him as the recipient of this award.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Jackson

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