

February 2, 2016

Shawn Loner
The Graduate School
220 Bowne Hall
Syracuse, New York 13244

Dear Mr. Loner,

As a PhD student in the history department who has been nominated for the Outstanding Teaching Award, I am eager to help an incoming cohort of teaching assistants by serving as a teaching mentor for the 2015-2016 school year. I am committed to supporting graduate students as they undertake teaching assignments—many for the first time. Teaching assistants provide a vital service to the university, and they deserve mentorship that equips them to address the challenges that they will encounter in the classroom. Moreover, I am dedicated to ensuring that undergraduate students have rewarding learning experiences throughout their careers at Syracuse University. The Teaching Mentor program can ensure that students engage with high quality instructors in laboratories, discussion sections, and recitations. Because of its vital importance to fulfilling the educational mission of this university, I am excited about the prospect of contributing to this program.

With over ten years of teaching experience, I have the skills and passion necessary to be an exemplary Teaching Mentor. In addition to serving as a teaching assistant for three semesters at Syracuse University, I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Ohio Wesleyan University and worked for two years as a high school reading and English as a Second Language instructor. I have thought deeply about lesson plan design, strategies to engage students, making classrooms accessible to all learners, and classroom management. These topics are relevant to teaching assistants from all disciplines.

I enjoy the collaborative elements of teaching. I have had the privilege of working with a team of excellent faculty and graduate students in the history department, and I am enthused about joining a university-wide network of Teaching Mentors. I look forward to speaking with you soon about the ways in which I can contribute to the Teaching Mentor program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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