June 10, 2019

Sungmin Lee
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Dear Professor Lee:

I am writing to congratulate you on your nomination for the Mentorship Excellence Award, an award presented annually by the Office of Undergraduate Research to two faculty members and one graduate student. This past spring, students were invited to nominate faculty members who demonstrate outstanding mentorship of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity. Outstanding mentors like you challenge and support your students, encouraging them to take intellectual risks and achieve goals they might not have imagined could be within their reach.

Although we could only honor two faculty members with this award, we appreciate and celebrate the excellence of all nominees. Appended to this letter is the text of the student nomination submitted in recognition of your mentorship; I hope you will be pleased to see your efforts recognized in this way.

Thank you for making such an important contribution to your students’ learning and development as scholars.

Sincerely,

Caroline McGuire
Director

C: Richard McAvoy

Nomination (from a student who requested that we not disclose his/her name)

Please describe how your mentor has influenced your experience with undergraduate research, scholarship, or creative activity.

Dr. Lee has showed me through action and example, how to better communicate visually. With Dr. Lee’s guidance, my technical experience has increased and my ability to frame what the main question in context of a landscape.

While working with Dr. Lee we were able to solidify a common understanding of how we approached a problem through diagramming as a main means of communication. When we put pen to paper and created a visual plan of our approaches it was an easy way to work together.
I've brought this approach now into my personal and professional life. I am able to communicate with residents on a local level about problems that exist within Hartford. I've been able to convince owners of private lots to temporarily donate land, convince non-profits to volunteer and apply for grants all with the visual communication skills I learned working with Dr. Lee.

*Please provide one or more specific examples to illustrate how this faculty member demonstrates excellent mentorship.*

Dr. Lee was in full support of me pursuing a Love Your Black grant program that would beautify vacant lots in Hartford. He has also been very supportive when I've had questions about the lot and the approach I should take both on a social and political level.

Dr. Lee also has a very interesting view on the built environment and its relation to public health. I am also interested in the similar phenomenon and my knowledge in the field has increased vastly through Dr. Lee's previous research.