

Wolverine Achievement Awards Nomination for Shalece Nuttal

February, 2017

I can give you 416 reasons why Shalece Nuttal should be commended for her willingness to go above and beyond in furthering advancement of her students' academic engagement and progress at UVU. She fits the bill for Advisor of the Year and the Staff Excellence Award, but I'll leave it up to you which one she receives. Awarding her both would be fine with me.

In January of 2016, I emailed the Criminal Justice (CJ) department inquiring about obtaining experiential credit toward a degree at UVU. I had just retired from a 20 year police career, and knew higher education was embracing experiential learning. Never before had I been so thankful to have my name start with a certain letter in the alphabet (my "O" was assigned to Shalece). Soon after, I received a nice three paragraph reply from her; an email I still have saved and was reviewed while writing this.

Shalece said the UVU Criminal Justice Program has been waiting for someone like me to come along who could provide a career portfolio and translate work experience into college credit. She stressed the value of obtaining a degree from a university where a rigorous academic standard is employed vs. other options available. At 45 years old, I had an ambitious and complex plan to return to college after a 24 year hiatus and finish my degree. She believed in me.

My journey to UVU then began with a couple non-credited math classes at a local technical college, after which I had to pass the Accuplacer to even register for an ever-elusive math class. I enrolled in a summer statistics class at Snow College and lived in a motel in Ephraim while I finished my Associate's Degree there. Even as a prospective student, Shalece remained in contact with me throughout the year, encouraging me on the journey I'd only talked about for 20 years.

Shalece has a way of making you feel like you're her most important student, even though she probably advises hundreds of others. She takes ownership of her students, her job, the CJ Program, and the university as a whole. When she was promoted recently, she reached out and assured me that she'd still see me through to graduation even though some of her responsibilities had changed. What a great representative of UVU.

I compiled a list of Shalece's attributes and here's some that came to mind. She is very personable, always approachable, extremely intelligent, knowledgeable of her job and the university as a whole, extraordinarily resourceful, unbelievably efficient, and honest in her expectations. Her positive attitude is contagious. I've encouraged many other UVU students, and my own children, to interact with their school advisors to make the most efficient use of time and resources. I tell everyone that Shalece is a genius, and I honestly believe that.

416 is the number of miles I commute each week from my home in Centerville to UVU. Just like the movie title, planes (not really), trains and automobiles (busses too) each day. My commitment and loyalty to UVU was inspired by Shalece. Many professors have told me 'Shalece is your biggest advocate,' and that means a lot. Her forward thinking and commitment to experiential learning convinced the administration and professors there to give it a chance.

I will graduate in the summer of 2017, a full semester early because of the credits acquired through this challenge effort. I am forever grateful to Shalece for helping me to fulfill a life-long dream. Therefore, I do respectfully submit her name for recognition at the Wolverine Achievement Awards.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at 1079199@my.uvu.edu or call me at 385-243-4322.

Thank You,

Steve O'Camb, #10798199