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Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award  
The University of Alabama Alumni Association  
P.O Box 861928  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to nominate Allison Hetzel, Associate Professor of Acting and Voice in the UA Theatre and Dance Department, for the 2016 Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award.

It is hard to put into words what all Allison has done for me as a student of the theatre department. I have studied under her for three years, and my knowledge in the field of acting and voice has expanded tenfold since I began my journey at the University.

It does not take long after meeting Allison to recognize her passion for helping students and the inclusive environment she creates. She makes daily efforts to ensure that her classroom is one with space to produce art—free of judgement. Because of her devotion to helping students succeed, I transformed as an artist. Even in times when I feel I “failed,” she was quick to build my self-esteem back. She believed in me despite my own doubt in my abilities, and I will never be able to thank her enough for that.

She takes time to give her students specific feedback aimed at improving their performance and is always complimentary of the effort put forth. She has many personal accomplishments as a performer and teacher, and they help to strengthen her credibility as a critic. Her opinion holds a great deal of weight in my eyes, and in the eyes of my peers.

She is the best professor I have ever had when it comes to keeping students informed and up to date on what is happening in class, and also, about what is going on outside of the classroom, like how to get more involved in the art community of Tuscaloosa. Few professors in my experience have cared that much.

A great teacher of the Arts, in my opinion, is one that is thorough in their teaching, but also encourages students to learn for themselves. A great teacher will prompt students to not take anything at surface value, and to evaluate what something means to them personally. A great teacher of the Arts understands that there are multiple paths toward completing a task, and that each student works in their own unique and interesting way to reach a conclusion.

Allison is one of these great teachers.

Feel free to contact me if needed. I am best reached by phone, (205) 641-0401 and email, hcniblett@crimson.ua.edu. Thank you so much for your consideration of Professor Allison Hetzel.

Sincerely,



Hannah Claire Niblett