

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to attest to Tanvir Pavel's teaching effectiveness. As the Associate Director for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching (CAT) I worked closely with our teaching assistant (TA) learning community of which Mr. Pavel was a member. The teaching assistant learning community was a semester long program designed to support TAs in their transition from student to instructor. Making one's course available for observation was one of the requirements of participating in the learning community. Based on my observations of Mr. Pavel's teaching and interactions with his peers, I believe Mr. Pavel's kindness and sense of humor are invaluable elements of his effectiveness as a teacher and colleague.

From the onset, Mr. Pavel was extremely grateful for the opportunity to receive feedback on his teaching and welcomed the opportunity to improve his practice. Mr. Pavel appreciates that the practice of teaching (and learning) is a process and he is eager to learn and put into practice new and innovative ways to engage his students. Apart from Mr. Pavel's approachable and accessible teaching style, he has a keen awareness of the importance of real-world examples for applicability, transferability, and motivation, especially in introductory economics courses, where students often struggle with unfamiliar concepts and an initial resistance to the principles courses as degree requirements.

Overall, his teaching effectiveness is evidenced by the classroom climate and student behaviors I observed during my visit to his "Principle of Microeconomics" class. Mr. Pavel's students appeared eager and focused. His students were attentive and asking meaningful questions. The classroom environment was professional and relaxed. Mr. Pavel was patient and smiled often, while offering constructive feedback. I was especially struck by the myriad of really useful, real world examples he was able to provide his students to help them visualize the concepts he was teaching. He closed the course by providing not only a recap of the day's lesson, he expertly drew connections to both previously covered and upcoming material.

I am confident that Mr. Pavel will continue to seek out opportunities to receive feedback and hone his teaching skills and by extension he will continue to provide excellent teaching and learning experiences to his students. If you have any questions or need any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Erica Caton

Associate Director

[Center for the Advancement of Teaching \(CAT\)](#)

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