



January 30, 2019

Ben Holt
Southwestern Oregon Community College
1988 Newmark Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Dear Ben:

Thanks for allowing me to visit your MTH 243 Probability & Statistics class on Monday, January 28. It's always a pleasure being in your classroom and observing how you teach.

You're very comfortable in the classroom. You have a high level of infectious energy that permeates all that happens. You have a steady, quick pace that keeps everything moving forward without leaving anyone behind—they stay caught up with you. You have strong class involvement; although some didn't verbally participate, they were engaged with the discussion. I'm always surprised how few students take notes while they're listening to the lecture. It's obvious observing that those who take notes tend to concentrate more and appear engaged.

You do a great job of making connections with students among the content, academics, and life. Your use of repetition becomes reinforcement of principles and key concepts. You remind students of previous concepts as you launch into the day's topic. I really like how you identify Big Idea #1 and Big Idea #2 to highlight and emphasize. You begin with concrete specific examples using dice or playing cards. After a general introductory discussion, you directly state and present the definition followed by several specific, clear examples. Then you expand their understanding by elaborating on consequences associated with the concept.

You help students see the big, often abstract picture as well as the everyday practical side of learning.

I like how you have a clock on the screen counting down minutes and seconds until class begins. You return POWs effectively before class begins. You remind them of "the early bird special" inviting students to submit early for your preview. You encourage the entire class with what they've done well such as taking the assignment seriously, writing complete sentences, and focusing on details. You also conclude the class by thanking the students.

As you continue to grow as a teacher, pay attention to avoid using repeated filler phrases such as "How should I say...?"

So Ben, thanks for all you do. You're a solid teacher who cares about your students and your subject. We're fortunate to have you with us. How can I help?

Take care,

Rodney D. Keller