



TO: ACPA Foundation, Diamond Honoree Selection Committee

FROM: Dr. Sue A. Saunders, Emeritus Extension Professor, University of Connecticut

RE: Nomination letter for DR. PAUL GORDON BROWN

DATE: 8/15/16

I am pleased to nominate Dr. Paul Gordon Brown for the ACPA Diamond Honoree recognition. You will note from Dr. Brown's vita that he is an active scholar, influential thinker, and esteemed leader in higher education and student affairs. By all measures, the quantity of his accomplishments is impressive. He has given 90 professional presentations and has contributed to numerous professional publications. He has taught aspiring higher education professionals in two esteemed graduate programs—winning awards for his teaching effectiveness. His accomplishments as an administrator and educator span a variety of functional areas, levels of responsibility, and organizational types. Finally, Dr. Brown has served ACPA and other professional associations in numerous and meaningful ways—from ACPA Standing Committees, State Divisions, and the Governing Board.

What may not be as apparent from the accomplishments outlined in his vita involves Dr. Brown's approach to his work. He is reliable, enthusiastic, and collaborative. Not only his work but also his character are prized by his colleagues and his students. There is an attitude of caring and optimism that permeates his work regardless of personal gain or recognition. Several years ago, I had a master's student in my Introduction to Student Development course who was passionate about digital identity and wanted to learn more. Since that subject is far beyond my expertise, I was struggling to identify resources and connections for this student. I contacted Dr. Brown and was gratified by his response. Basically, he took my student on as a mentee—collaborating to an extent far beyond my expectations. Dr. Brown introduced this new master's student to other experts in the field and also communicated an egalitarian philosophy that encouraged this student's confidence, learning, and commitment to the profession. I know that the story of my student is just one among many narratives about Dr. Brown's fundamental kindness, care, and inspiration.

Dr. Brown's work is creative and highly sophisticated, but also accessible to everyone in our profession. He has an extraordinary talent of making scholarship relevant to the practical realities of our work with students. I also think that his direct service to students by creating software and leading workshops allows him to be a conduit for learning by all levels of professionals.

I feel confident that Dr. Brown will be a worthy Diamond Honoree. He has name recognition, professional accomplishments, and the type of character that will encourage giving. Although I am not a close friend of Dr. Brown's, I am impressed enough by his work that I would be honored to be a hard-working champion.