

Dean of the Faculty:

My name is Eunice Osei-Wusu, a senior majoring in Planning and Public Policy. I began my journey at Rutgers University in the spring of 2017 and, like most students, I came with a blueprint for my future. However, during my first semester, I failed a math course and destroyed the timeline I created. Despite what could've been a major setback, failing was the best thing that happened to me while at Rutgers; it allowed me to erase the plan my parents and I thought was best, and gave me the opportunity to discover what was best for me. During that time period, I had the pleasure of learning under Professor Debra Borie-Holtz. Professor Borie-Holtz was my Research Methods instructor for the fall 2019 semester. Prior to adding the course, I feared it because I knew it required students to engage a certain level of mathematics. Hearing the stories of others who completed the course caused me to disconnect before the course even began.

On the first day of the course, Professor Borie-Holtz shared with us how we would become fluent in understanding concepts and measurements, survey design, sampling, analytical writing and, most importantly, how to construct a research paper. I doubted I would do well in the course, but her determination and confidence kept me enrolled. Each week she came to class on time, ready to inspire engagement and instill knowledge. I have sat in several three hours lectures, but Professor Borie-Holtz was unique; she came prepared every week with engaging and diverse exercises to make sure we understood the topic. Professor Borie-Holtz knew how to communicate effectively with us so that every student could truly comprehend the material. Many might assume that this is what a Professor should do, but an Associate Professor is someone who goes above and beyond, even after hours. When stumped on a module, Professor was available to explain to me where I went wrong and what to look out for the next time.

Many students work to attain a grade, but we learned the importance of going beyond the A and leaving the course with an understanding of how to analyze data, create bi-variate graphs and discuss our findings. Weekly assignments helped my peers and I locate where our strengths and weaknesses were in the course. The assignments challenged our thinking and, even in the moments I didn't do well, I knew

my failures never represented inadequacy; they were for me to realize that it's okay to ask for extra assistance and keep trying until I perfected a specific topic. That concept transitioned into life outside the classroom, where I saw how well I interpreted failure and learned from my past experiences. I began to look at my adversities and shortcomings as an opportunity to fortify myself. Professor Borie-Holtz allowed me to see the beauty attached to making mistakes and pushed me to do better. She not only taught me lessons within the course, but her system of teaching prepared me for life outside the classroom.

Professor Borie-Holtz is one the most inspiring Professors I have ever had, not simply because of her ability to teach, but because of her belief in her students and her dedication to improving the students as well as herself. She constantly asked us for feedback and made sure that every student understood the material being taught. I believe that these attributes, along with many other skills, will ensure that she continues to be an asset as an Associate Professor in Teaching. Therefore, I strongly recommend Professor Borie-Holtz for consideration as an Associate Professor in Teaching at the Bloustein School of Public Policy and Planning.

Sincerely,

Eunice

Planning and Public Policy

Class of 2020