

February 16th, 2016

Rachel  
Undergraduate Student

Dear Mike Greenberg,

My name is Rachel Cusumano, I am a current undergraduate student studying Planning and Public Policy. I was a student of Professor Borie Holtz in the fall of 2015 while taking her Research Methods Class. I am writing in endorsement of Professor Borie Holtz's outstanding teaching abilities and overall character.

As a Bloustein Student I have been fortunate to study under a wide array of outstanding professors. Not only do I consider Professor Borie-Holtz to be one of those great professors, she has become one of the most influential professors I've had the fortune of meeting during my time at Rutgers. Professor Borie-Holtz is an educator who is not only knowledgeable in her field but also genuinely cares about her students and wants them to succeed. This was made clear in the numerous resources she created and made available to her Research Methods students. Although Research Methods can be a challenging course, Professor Borie-Holtz went above and beyond to make classes engaging and ensure all learners could succeed. In addition to general classwork, students greatly benefited from the impressive insight she brought into the classroom, an insight that has been cultivated from an extensive professional background. Drawing from her own professional experiences, Professor Borie-Holtz brought concepts out of the textbook and showed us the real world significance of the course material.

I personally credit Professor Borie-Holtz for my own success in not only her Research Methods course, but also in increasing my confidence to succeed in other courses as well. While taking her Research Methods course I suffered complications from a mental health condition and had difficulty maintaining my academic performance. Not only was she understanding about my specific situation, she worked extensively with me to figure out an approach that would allow me to complete the coursework. Struggling with the health complications put me in a vulnerable spot and my confidence was completely shaken in regards to my education, there were many times I contemplated dropping out. Having Professor Borie-Holtz personally work with me, having her believe in me, was a significant factor in my decision to remain in school. She has been an absolute role-model for me and I'm sure she will continue to be for many students. Having Professor Borie-Holtz on faculty is an asset to Bloustein and Rutgers as a whole.

Sincerely,

Rachel  
Public Health  
Class of 2016