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To Whom This May Concern,

Bob Hess is the kind of professor that you only have once in a lifetime. I went to orientation at UNT in the fall of 2018, and I was introduced to the courses I'd be taking in my future at UNT. From that day on, I had my heart set on enrolling in the "Camera Acting" class. What I didn't know is how much I would learn about myself as an actress, as well as a person.

Bob Hess has a unique ability to peel back the layers of a person, and assist them in arriving at a truly authentic place. I was so amazed by this process that I wasted no time in asking to be his Teaching Assistant for a future course. This decision was one of the best I'd ever make. As someone majoring in both Media Arts and Theatre, I knew this would be a great way to work on editing skills, as well as observe and learn even more from Bob while he worked with other students. However, the role ended up being so much more than that.

In a time where I expected to be more of a camera operator, Bob took me under his wing. I learned so much during that course about professionalism, how to work with actors, and what it takes to create a moving and compelling performance. On top of including me in class discussions, he would also take separate time to review lessons with me, and he constantly made sure to teach me each reason behind every approach he took to his coaching. Bob's investment in my personal success as a student encouraged me to take a greater sense of pride in my work, and made me even more excited to help problem solve and improve the quality of footage for the class. To this day, this TA course and the guidance I received from Bob was far and away the single most valuable course that I took at UNT.

It is no question why every one of my peers race to take Bob's course. On top of being one of the only instructors that teach what the professional field truly looks like, the personal guidance I received has forever altered me as an individual.

I joined my camera acting class after COVID and at my absolute lowest self esteem. Bob showed me the beauty in dismantling fears of being messy, ugly, and vulnerable. He encouraged me to tell stories that I had previously felt incapable of telling, and he saw something in me as a

person that I hadn't previously seen. During his class, Bob Hess helped me to continue grow and embody my full self. Later as his TA, this evolution progressed even further.

It is a remarkably rare and beautiful sight to see someone so committed to his students. I've never seen anybody champion each and every one of them in the way that he does. Bob teaches with a passion that is unlike anything else I've witnessed, and would often make me emotional while seeing him coach his students. You can just feel the love he has for them, and his enthusiasm towards their success.

As a growing person and actress, I can safely say that Bob Hess has had an extraordinary impact on me. As I sit here reflecting, I am struggling to find words to adequately express the gratitude I feel towards him. He lifted me out of a horrible place and reminded me why I love theatre, and what I'm capable of. It's comforting to know that I have someone like him in my corner if I ever need more guidance in the future. I am thankful beyond words for the role Bob Hess has had in my life, and his impact on me as a both a professional and person. He embodies what it means to be a mentor. Professors like Bob are the heart of the university and they're the people that elevate UNT above the rest.

Sincerely,

Tatum Love