## College of Urban and Public Affairs

Mark O. Hatfield School of Government Criminology & Criminal Justice - CCJ Online

Post Office Box 751 Portland, Oregon 97207-0751 503-725-5162 fax

503-725-5131 tel www.online.ccj.pdx.edu

February 1, 2013

To whom it may concern:

The Division of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) at Portland State University offers a top rated online Bachelor's degree program in Criminology and Criminal Justice. All courses in the program are offered fully online and students are not required to come to campus.

Portland State

As in many online programs, faculty find that teaching writing skills and addressing writing errors can be overwhelming in large classes. As part of our effort to provide expanded services to online students we took the innovative step of bringing in academic writing expert Dr. Daveena Tauber to design an instructional unit tailored to the needs and conventions of writing in the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Dr. Tauber met with CCJ faculty to gather information about their concerns and needs, borrowed CCJ textbooks, and reviewed individual course syllabi and assignments. The self-guided instructional unit she built covers topics ranging from how to communicate effectively with faculty and peers to how to cite scholarly sources using APA. All of the examples and sources in the unit are tailored to our field.

We are excited to have this resource available for our faculty, who can choose to use it as a required or optional part of their online courses. In addition, we asked Dr. Tauber to offer a workshop for the course facilitators who work closely with students in our Criminology and Criminal Justice Online (CCJO) classes. These facilitators, who are graduate teaching assistants, found the workshop engaging and valuable not only for their work in CCJO, but also helpful for their personal studies and research.

Dr. Tauber has been a pleasure to work with. She was responsive, understood our needs, and was willing to receive feedback along the way. She worked closely with our technology team during the entire process. They were able to give her assistance needed to finalize the unit for the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. We are excited about the ways that these materials will benefit our faculty and students. We would recommend Daveena to other programs looking to extend writing resources and support for online students.

Sincerely,

Barbara Maidel

Assistant Director, CCJ Online

Barbone Maidel

Division of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Mark O. Hatfield School of Government