



February 15, 2023

Mia Brownell
Art and Design

Dear Professor Brownell,

Congratulations! You have been nominated for Southern's 2023 J. Philip Smith Outstanding Teacher Award, which annually recognizes the efforts of one full-time faculty and one part-time faculty. In addition to this prestigious honor, recipients will be recognized at the annual Celebration of Excellence and receive a prize of \$2,500.

Now that the high caliber of your teaching has been brought to our attention, the Outstanding Teaching Awards Committee is soliciting your application. Attached you will find the nominating comments made on your behalf and a recommended list of materials to include in your application file.

Please note that the deadline for submitting application materials to the Office of Faculty Development is March 20th. The announcement of award recipients will be made by April 24 and will be honored at Southern's Celebration of Excellence in Fall 2023.

Congratulations again on your excellent teaching and your positive impact on our students' lives. I wish you continued success in all of your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Shuei Kozu and Darcy Kern
Co-Directors, Faculty Development

cc: Bruce Kalk, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Terrence Lavin, Chairperson, Department of Art and Design

Nominating Comments:

“Professor Brownell has continually encouraged me to develop my skills as an artist. She is uncompromising, in a good way, in that she always wants and expects the very best work possible from all of her students. There are many excellent instructors within the SCSU Art Department. All of them are worthy of notice. However, Professor Brownell, seems to be particularly dedicated to both her art and her students. In any event, that is my impression.”

“Professor Brownell never fails to remain anything short of optimistic and inclusive with all her students. She is so passionate and enthusiastic with all her classes when it comes to teaching art. Professor provides you with a plethora of useful techniques that help you succeed. Her advice is not only accurate but comes from a place of gentle constructive criticism. It is apparent she wants to see all her students produce lucrative work.”

“The reason why I am nominating this professor is because this semester, Mia Brownell is teaching six art classes at once, which is a lot, especially for an art class. Art courses are normally 2-3 hours long, so to teach six of them at once is outstanding.”

“She’s very enthusiastic, passionate, and she gives people really good feedback on their work. She’s super patient too and she’s very pleasant to be around and incredibly approachable. She creates a certain environment which each student where she has one on one conversation to so she can see eye to eye with them. I think the tone in her voice also plays a role in her teaching. The lingo she uses in class can be very quirky and uplifting. When you start to understand something she’ll say “YES!”, then in detail tell you how she recognized your progress and right after say something like and “go go go you got it” or “keep going keep going.” It’s a very proud tone. She’s seems very proud once you’ve understood something and she communicates that perfectly. We need more professors like THIS even outside of art as well. I’ve never seen anything like that in any classroom on campus. That attitude is a game changer and shouldn’t be overlooked.”

“Mia Brownell is an iconic name in the department of Art & Design. Currently, she is teaching six classes of varying skill levels/ mediums within one time-block. That alone is a show of extreme skill and dedication.”