



VALPARAISO
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

August 31, 2011

Committee to Enhance Learning and Teaching
Office of the Provost
Valparaiso University

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you so much for granting me the honor of being chosen as the Caterpillar Award recipient. After many years of teaching and continuous attempts at improvement, I was thrilled to be rewarded, especially by my peers.

The money I received from Caterpillar came at a perfect time. Our MBA classes have been using an online optional format offering three ways to take our classes. Students can attend class in the building, they can be off-site using the online feature or they can view the recording at a later time. This has been particularly effective for our students who often travel for business or have parental duties that force them to miss classes.

Students, who took the class off-site but in real time, needed a way to participate in discussions. The Director of the MBA and our IT consultant designed what is called the "fourth row" as it is a TV screen that is on the wall behind the third row in the classroom. Any student signed in from off-site can now be viewed on the screen and can fully participate in the classes. Caterpillar paid for the TV screen. This innovation has allowed us to engage students in a way that we never thought possible.

Thank you again for honoring me and allowing the College of Business to offer our students an even better Valpo experience.

Sincerely yours,

Sandra Strasser, Ph.D.
Professor of Information and Decision Sciences

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