



College of Business  
Department of Economics  
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February 3, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Monica P. Escaleras for the *Distinguished Mentor of the Year* award. Dr. Escaleras is an outstanding faculty member and she excels in teaching, research, and service. Her work with the Business and Economics Polling Initiative, or BEPI, is well-known across campus and beyond. The polling initiative enlists the assistance of several undergraduate and graduate students, some of whom are taking directed independent study credit for their and others, although receiving no academic credit, are just there to learn research skills from Dr. Escaleras that help them in their future endeavors.

Dr. Escaleras has involved the students in all aspects of the research process from data collection up to and including presentations at professional conferences. She meets with the students weekly to make certain they stay on track and encourages the group to exchange ideas and criticisms to improve their work. The quality of Dr. Escaleras work as a mentor is already evident in the large number of students submitting their research to academic conferences. With her mentoring, Dr. Escaleras' students are acquiring the skills and discipline needed to work independently and think critically.

Dr. Escaleras has done an excellent job mentoring students with their work on the Business and Economics Polling Initiative. The great success of the program is evidenced by the fact that many students see out Dr. Escaleras and BEPI for the educational benefits. None receive pay and many do not get academic credit. The tangible results are detailed above. Dr. Escaleras' hard work is providing national exposure to FAU through the polling initiative and enormous practical experience to our students. We certainly have no more deserving individual for this award and the College of Business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Steven B. Caudill'.

Steven B. Caudill  
Chair, Department of Economics