



Mayumi Steinmetz  
Shoreline Community College  
16101 Greenwood Ave N  
Shoreline, WA 98133

Dear Mayumi,

I am delighted to tell you that you have been named a recipient of The Evergreen State College 2015-16 Teacher Excellence Award. This award is designed to honor teachers who have had a significant impact on the lives of students.

As Evergreen's Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, I place a high value on quality teaching. In an attempt to encourage our students to think about teachers who made a difference, I asked our incoming students to nominate the teacher they felt made the biggest difference in their education. In your case, Sara St. Clair nominated you. Here is what Sara wrote:

*Steinmetz-sensei is a dynamic teacher. Her classes are exciting, with a variety of activities. Languages can be awkward and embarrassing for adult learners, particularly when students are required to learn three brand-new alphabets! Steinmetz-sensei helps put her students at ease with smiles and jokes and clever mnemonics that make memorization a pleasure. I have to say the best thing about Sensei is that she is unshakeable. I was in Steinmetz-sensei's Japanese II class on February 28, 2001, when the Nisqually Earthquake suddenly began shaking the classroom. Terrified, I dove under my desk, near tears and tightly covering my head. I glanced around me and saw other students as scared as I was, but when I looked toward Steinmetz-sensei, she was standing in her place at the head of the classroom with a big grin on her face. After the quake was over and we all crept out from under the desks, Sensei laughed softly and said, "That reminded me of when I was a little girl growing up in a highrise apartment building in Japan, and the earthquakes would rock me to sleep." I marveled at this woman's calm.*

Congratulations on this honor. In appreciation for all you've done, I've enclosed a certificate naming you a Teacher of Excellence as well as a window decal. I hope you display both proudly.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Zimmerman  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

cc: Cheryl Roberts, President