



Matthew Westra
Instructor, PACE Psychology 406P
Introduction to Developmental Disabilities

Mr. George Turner
Greater Kansas City Foundation for
Citizens with Retardation
1014 West 39th Street
Kansas City, Missouri

April 28, 1999

Dear Mr. Turner,

I want to thank you for your stirring presentations on "Sexuality and People with Developmental Disabilities" this semester and in April of 1998. Your manner in the class is energetic and lively. Regardless of the intrinsic interest of the subject matter, your presentation style is gripping, keeping students interested and freeing them to be curious and pursue questions both in class and on their own. Your activities with each class group were successful introductions to good concepts and discussion. I formerly taught courses in sexuality for persons with developmental disabilities and did individual and small group counseling in this area, and I learned things in your presentations that would have been helpful in that work. Further, the information on separating sexual behavior from the sexuality of the person and the sexualization that is put onto all people is a good addition.

Students' responses during the following class session and in their response papers centered around not only how much they learned and how much they appreciated your willingness to give up an evening to spend with us, but how passionate you are about the issue of human rights and freedom for persons with developmental disabilities. There was much discussion the following class session about how we could go about providing, and coping with, the types of freedoms and essential equality that you advocate, and the subtle ways that such freedoms are denied. I believe there was a shift in values among the class beyond what had been happening up to that date.

Sir, you are an asset to the field of disabilities education and service. Your way of breaking down the artificial division that there is an "us" and a "them" is part of the good work that transcends material value and will create a legacy for a life that has made a difference.

Thank you once again for your willingness and interest in coming to speak before the class.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Westra". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Westra