



DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

September 29th, 2015

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to nominate Dr. Art English, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Political Science at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, for the inaugural *Arkansas Political Science Association Distinguished Scholar Award*. Dr. English has served his students, UALR, and the state of Arkansas more generally, for more than 40 years. He is a colleague of the finest caliber, and his record of impact across teaching, scholarship, and engagement is quite frankly, humbling. Your committee will likely have many worthy candidates, especially in its inaugural installation. I have no doubt that Dr. English's candidacy will stand among the best of them and I would like to highlight some of the reasons he would make an excellent choice for this award.

Dr. English began his career at UALR in 1976 and served at every level of the professoriate, including a stint as chairman of the department, prior to transitioning to Emeritus status in 2013. During that stretch of time, Dr. English established himself as a leading expert in the scholarship of state and local politics, publishing more than 25 pieces in outlets like *The Journal of Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *State and Local Government Review*, *Polity*, and our very own *Midsouth Political Science Review*.

This expertise in state politics meant he quickly became a tremendous resource for the public. In fact, his media appearances as a representative of the discipline and of his department and university are likely innumerable, as are their impact in helping to elucidate the finer points of day to day politics in the state. As Emeritus, Dr. English remains a go-to person for media appearances in the department, something for which we remain very grateful. He also continues to serve his community, and currently is engaged in teaching government related courses at *LifeQuest of Arkansas*, which provides continuing education to seniors.

Dr. English's sustained efforts in the area of teaching and mentorship are more than remarkable. The number of students who have learned from him and have taken the challenge to become more engaged in civic life can be counted in the thousands. This alone would be the mark of a hugely successful career. Nevertheless, I would like to highlight a few efforts of his teaching record that stand out, not only for their commitment to students, but also to their commitment to *civiness*.

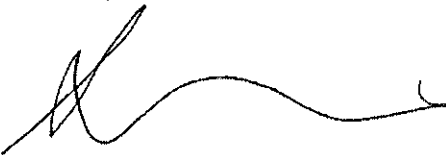
First, Dr. English established and directed for 30 years the UALR Political Science internship program, which serves as one of the cornerstones of a UALR Political Science degree. His efforts to place students in opportunities from local to state to national venues, where they could gain first-hand experience they would find invaluable both as professionals and as citizens, remain today as a benchmark for the university.

Second, the establishment and direction for 20 years of the department's Capitol Hill Seminar, which takes students to Washington D.C. every year to meet Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, and the staff and political players who shape political discourse in this country, is the very definition of the term 'High Impact' education and stands as a model for expanding the classroom beyond the halls and walls of campus.

Finally, under Dr. English's direction, *Iota Mu*, the UALR chapter of *Pi Sigma Alpha*, which he initiated in 1979 and directed until his transition to Emeritus status, attained national recognition seven times. Part of the reason for the success of this chapter is that Dr. English really created an honors society that was grounded in the notion of civic engagement, mutual respect, and professional values. The chapter continues to be very lucky to have a founding director who exhibits all of these qualities himself, and Dr. English remains quite active in its efforts today.

I have had the honor of calling Dr. English a colleague for a decade, but his roots in this state run deep and wide. At last year's annual gathering of the honors society, Dr. English was presented with a commendation from several state legislators. If I am not mistaken, I believe our program (and Dr. English) could lay claim to having educated five legislators in that class. Aside from the legislature, his students have also served (or continue to serve) at nearly every level of elected and appointed office throughout the state. All told, the impact of Dr. English's career in the state – from scholarship to teaching, mentoring, and civic engagement – is just stunning. I believe his record makes him very worthy of consideration for the *Arkansas Political Science Association Distinguished Scholar Award*, and I am proud to offer his nomination to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Drummond', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew J. Drummond
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of Arkansas at Little Rock