

JERRY A. MAY
Vice President for Development

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Office of Development
3003 South State Street, Suite 9000
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1288
734.647.6030 Fax: 734.647.6100
Email: jamay@umich.edu



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Joanne Catlett
Director of Awards Program, CASE
1307 New York Avenue, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Catlett,

I am writing to support the nomination of Curt Simic for the CASE Lifetime Achievement Award. It is my great honor and privilege to do so.

Curt is clearly an outstanding professional, mentor, teacher and colleague, but I believe he should be viewed first as an outstanding leader. He is and has been a leader of those of us in the profession and a leader for the profession itself. For several decades, he has been among the most visible proponents of development and fundraising in public higher education. He has been out in front, not only in the way he has led his own fundraising program at Indiana, but publicly for the rest of us in the profession.

He led by being among the finest examples of a true professional in higher education. He has served as an extraordinary role model to senior professionals, as well as an inspiration to development staff at the beginning of their careers. Indeed, I know of individuals who selected a career in fundraising because of the example set by Curt Simic.

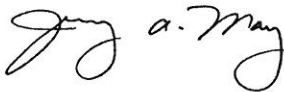
While he led personally, he has also been dedicated to the more widespread growth of the profession. Curt has generously given his time to teach CASE seminars for years. He has visited numerous universities to stimulate their programs and improve their fundraising performance. He has served on the faculty of the Big Ten Fund Raisers Institute (BTfri) for more than a decade and acted as its dean for about 10 years. In this capacity he has taught and inspired more than 40 development professionals each summer.

Besides the many group presentations and educational seminars he has lead or participated in for decades, he is also recognized as one of the great mentors in the profession. Curt has recruited and nurtured hundreds of talented development staff during his career and has shaped many of our leaders in higher education fundraising. Rhea Turtleaub at UCLA and Rod Kirsch at Penn State are two of our outstanding colleagues who are proud to name Curt as an important influence on their careers.

Finally, I must comment on Curt as a colleague. There are dozens of experienced vice presidents or foundation presidents like me who have had our own careers supported by Curt. He is a wise counselor, a standard bearer of integrity and civility, and is as highly respected as anyone in this field.

Curt has demonstrated these qualities throughout his career. And while I have noted Curt's influence on those of us within the development profession, I have not even discussed how he has nurtured the philanthropic side of thousands of donors across the country. They could tell their own stories of how he has opened their eyes to the power of giving.

I know of no one more deserving of this high CASE Award. I would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry A. May". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Jerry A. May
Vice President for Development
The University of Michigan