

537 Route 191
Chazy, NY 12921-9721
October 5, 1995

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your note that congratulated me for winning the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. The reception of this award has been a very satisfying experience for me.

Perhaps I should apologize for not having written this past summer. Over the past years, I have been changing my teaching so much, and have been experimenting in such significant ways with my teaching, that I felt ill at ease and not confident with what I was doing. However, this past year, I began to feel that my learning about teaching was slowing down, and I began to feel much more comfortable with what I was doing. So this past summer I decided to just try to calm down. I felt that I needed to not worry so much about what I was doing.

Anyway, this fall I feel that I am approaching my teaching at a deeper level, and am much more confident about what I am doing. The last time that I wrote to you, I was complaining to you about how my students aren't learning definitions well, or aren't applying them well, or something like that. You responded by saying that my job is to help my students. Your response reflected your confidence that you could elicit the kind of learning you hoped for from your students. My complaints reflected my lack of that same confidence. Today I am more confident, and I feel that I am able to respond more completely to my students needs.

So now I believe that I possess something very valuable, my knowledge about teaching mathematics, and am confronted with the problem of how to pass this knowledge on to others. I guess that I need to find places where people might be interested in having this knowledge, and talk to them. The trick is to do it and not make them uncomfortable. I'll have to think a lot more about this because it would require a higher level of commitment than I now have made.

I hope that all is well with you. Thank you once again for your note.

Sincerely yours,