

College of Biblical Studies

1850 Teague Blvd., ACU Box 29400, Abilene, Texas 79699-9400
325-674-3700 • Fax 325-674-3776 • acu.edu



August 30, 2017

Dear colleagues,

I am proud to commend Trey Shirley to you for promotion. Although I regard him worthy of this honor for many reasons, his ability to educate students well is certainly at the top of the list. Some of my best experiences at ACU have been teaching sections of CORE classes with him.

Trey has a breadth of knowledge that allows him to navigate very different disciplines with ease. This ability not only enables him to be a good scholar, it facilitates communicating important ideas to a wide range of students. Trey makes subject matter relevant, and relevant to a lot of different people.

He is engaging and draws students in to look at the world around them from multiple perspectives. He always shows students utmost respect, valuing their input and opinions. Nevertheless, he provides alternate models and encourages tolerance of others. He models the art of civil discourse.

His creativity impacts learning in and out of the classroom in multiple ways. Class sessions vary in pace, in delivery, in activity. Assignments and activities are often clever, but are included for the sake of learning rather than making a cheap, superficial impact on students.

Even when things do not go well, as when 20% of the students in one of our classes plagiarized their papers, Trey holds to high standards while also advocating for student learning in the midst of a difficult time and process. His compassion for people and devotion to teaching greatly contributed, in my opinion, to producing a valuable learning experience for those students.

Therefore, I gladly commend Trey Shirley to you as one worthy of promotion at ACU.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Curt Niccum'.

Curt Niccum
Professor of New Testament