

Utrecht, August 11th 2009

Dear Sir or Madam,

Before professor Cargile Cook asked me to write a short tribute letter for professor Steehouder, he had already approached me and told me he had suggested me to professor Cargile Cook. He felt a little embarrassed about asking me to write a tribute letter for him and I think this shows what a modest man professor Steehouder is. Although his work is of great importance to the field of technical writing, he will never be presumptuous about it. I think professor Steehouder loves what he does and his contributions are numerous because his heart belongs to technical communication.

The first time I met professor Steehouder was a couple of years ago when I applied for a job as his personal student assistant. During the interview he told me about all the research he did, the books he wrote and all the other things he did in the area of technical communication. His long list of achievements impressed me very much and I can only hope to have a scientific career like his someday. When some years later I attended one of his master courses, I could finally see professor Steehouder in action and the enthusiasm with which he teaches his students, works just as good in the classroom as it does in the workplace.

Not every student may have the pleasure to work with professor Steehouder or to have him as a teacher, but every student at Twente University knows professor Steehouder's name, not only the students at the Faculty of Behavioral Sciences. This is because of the handbooks he wrote about communication and writing. I remember his books were on the reference lists of almost all of my papers because every time I had to write an important document I used one or more of his handbooks. So also in this area, his influence was significant. In fact, if I had actually used one of the handbooks on writing while writing this tribute letter, I have no doubt it will be even better.

Professor Steehouder definitely deserves the Council for Programs in Scientific and Technical Communication's 2009 Honorary Distinguished Service Award for his numerous and important contributions to the technical writing community. Michaël Steehouder is a great person, a great teacher and a great researcher.

Yours faithfully,

Nelleke Poorthuis.