Hi, Marci,

I am Jim Roth, an English teacher at SCC. Shelly Nilsson, a student in my English 102 course, mentioned that she had talked with you about the possibility of students visiting Riverview to interview some of your residents.

One of the course’s assignments asks students to conduct a “Living History Interview” of an elderly person. From the interview information, the student writes an essay sharing with their readers a collection of the elderly person’s insights and life experiences. The goal is to gather and preserve recollections of life in earlier eras so that they are not lost when a person passes away.

A few years ago, I added a service-learning option to this assignment so that willing students could contribute to our community by interviewing elderly residents at assisted living centers and retirement centers such as yours. The goal was to help these elderly citizens feel less marginalized by saying through the interview that their lives mattered and still do.

To prepare for the interview, the students and I discuss the assignment’s intent and how to conduct a one-on-one interview. In addition, I advise each student to interview residents in public areas such as cafeterias or dining halls so that no visits to the residents’ rooms would be necessary. Finally, I ask the students to deliver or send a final copy of the write-up to the residents they interviewed.

I know it’s an imposition, but I write to ask if you would allow willing students to interview Riverview residents selected by you. I am not sure how many students would participate, but in years past it has been 10 to 15. If you would allow this, would you send me the best days and times, and how many students at a time could be accommodated without being a disruption?

Thank you so much for considering this.

Jim Roth

English Instructor—SCC

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