25 June 2012

PROJECT SUMMARY: Japan Studies Institute, 2012.

Dear Professor Higurashi and Dr. Jill Gately, Directors of the Japan Studies Institute,

During JSI’s “Incorporating Japanese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum” course at San Diego State University during June 2012, I was able to accomplish several of my goals. First, with the excellent instruction I received, I now hope to increase student awareness of Japanese culture in several of my history courses here at the University of North Alabama, including my World History courses. Second, I plan to teach a course on Japanese Technology next summer called *From Samurai to Sony: Japanese Technology from 1600 to the Present*. Topics will include everything from Toyota and Sony to Anime and the “Robot Nation.” With the help of JSI, I was able to develop the beginnings of a strong instructional outline and bibliography for the course – as shown in my final Powerpoint Project for JSI. (See attached) Third, this course is being developed to coincide with a trip to Japan with some of our UNA undergraduates. I was recently asked by our resident Asian historian (who is Japanese) to help her lead a group of UNA students in a trip to Japan next summer (2013). Since I had no background in Japanese culture and language, I was a bit hesitant. But I came to find that she wanted my expertise in leading course-driven student groups in international trips, while we relied upon her expertise in Japanese history. With the help of JSI, I now feel more comfortable in co-leading this trip, and can now build upon the basics I have learned concerning Japanese culture. I am deeply grateful to all those involved in the Japan Studies Institute. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Burton, Professor of History

University of North Alabama