

School of Public Health

Austin Regional Campus

Dr. Delbert Oberteuffer Scholarship Award. Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education

Dear Scholarship Selection Committee:

I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support and recommendation for Mr. Dennis Nyachoti's application for the Dr. Delbert Oberteuffer Scholarship Award. I am quite familiar with Mr. Nyachoti's (Dennis) skills and promise through working with him via the UTHealth School of Public Health Doctor of Public Health Program in Health Promotion and Health Education. This past year, I served as his professor in three core doctoral courses: Research Seminar in Health Promotion & Behavioral Sciences, Community Health Promotion Theory & Practice, and Advanced Methods in Planning and Implementing Health Promotion Programs (Intervention Mapping).

In each of these courses, Dennis excelled with his class assignments, which included the development of a six-step health promotion intervention plan, critical reflections on health promotion theory and practice, and the development of a National Institute of Health-guided R21 research grant proposal. With a strong focus on the promotion of food security and health eating, Dennis demonstrated exceptional competence with the health promotion models we examined as well as strong leadership skills when working with his fellow students in discussion groups. As a demonstration of his dedication to his academic work, his grades were always among the top of his class. Dennis is very well respected among his peers, and exhibited a very engaging teaching style when he led the class discussion and presentation of topics. Dennis also quickly adapts to new situations and takes challenges positively.

Dennis also has a great passion for health promotion programs, especially in designing and evaluating projects. For instance, in one of his class projects, he proposed and designed a health promotion program to increase fruits and vegetable consumption among 3rd to 5th graders in El Paso, Texas. He also shared his background working with different organizations in health promotion and disease prevention in El Paso region and Kenya. Among his projects in El Paso, Dennis served as a researcher of a health promotion intervention to promote healthy eating and healthy cooking skills delivered via the supermarket setting. I have been very impressed with Dennis's passion for health promotion and his overall professional demeanor and academic ability.

Based on Dennis's strong educational and health promotion practice background, along with his self-initiative, I am delighted to highly recommend him for the *Dr. Delbert Oberteuffer Scholarship Award* provided via the Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education. Thank you for your consideration of this exceptional candidate.

Sincerely,

Andrew E. Springer, DrPH

Associate Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences (tenured)

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