

November 24, 2023

To the Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship Selection Committee:

I am writing to offer my full and sincere recommendation for the selection of Ja’Nya Johnson for the scholarship in Dr. Beyrer’s name and honor. I have had the privilege of meeting, teaching, and engaging with Ms. Johnson during her tenure in our Master of Public Health program. She is bright, passionate, caring, and driven. She is dedicated to public health and showcases great potential for growth and leadership, especially if afforded opportunities such as this scholarship and the chance to connect to the Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education (FAHE) and the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE).

I have worked with Ms. Johnson in several of her graduate courses, particularly in Program Planning and Environmental Health. Her insight and input in the classroom is always appreciated as I count on her to facilitate or join in the conversation. Ja’Nya is an inquisitive student who is eager to learn more about the field of public health, particularly in the area of research. Ms. Johnson is very capable and one of most self-sufficient students I have met thus far in my time teaching at the University of North Florida. Although faced with early obstacles that would easily prevent others from pursuing training and education at this level, Ja’Nya has persisted and prevailed. As a mentor, it is my role to ensure that she finds her place in public health and that she feels valued and appreciated for all that she has to offer the field and to our communities. The Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship would not only assist Ms. Johnson financially but it would provide her with more self-confidence and support from the profession at large.

Ja’Nya has worked successfully in clinical care as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in the trauma unit of UF Health and then in the behavioral health unit of Memorial Hospital. Through these very arduous positions, Ms. Johnson recognized how vital prevention strategies, programming, and interventions are to better patient outcomes. She devoted herself to public health in order to promote positive behavior changes and education in support of improved health results. During her time in the Department of Public Health, Ja’Nya has been active in



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student organizations and in responding to the needs of our community and stakeholders. It is for these reasons and more that I have no doubt Ms. Johnson would meet the goals and objectives set forth by the Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education (FAHE) if selected for this scholarship. With additional support and guidance, I foresee exceptional things on the horizon for Ms. Johnson. And I look forward to her continued success in Public Health.

If I can be of any more assistance in your selection decision, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Amber N. Barnes, MPH, PhD**

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