

26 November 2023

Recommendation for Katie Hintz

To whom it may concern:

This letter of recommendation is to support the application of Katie Hintz for the Dr. Becky J. Smith Scholarship. I have known Ms. Hintz for two years as a student in the undergraduate public health program at WMU. Our interactions have included interactions as a professor and student, as an advisor and member of Eta Sigma Gamma, and in other informal interactions. I believe that Katie has several qualities that make her an outstanding candidate for this scholarship.

Katie is a leader among her peers. Some individuals lead through their vocal inputs, others provide leadership through their actions and example; Katie has demonstrated a wonderful balance of the two in her leadership of the Eta Sigma Gamma, Gamma Mu chapter. She has served as our president for the last year and has done an excellent job of restoring a sense of order and focus to the chapter. She listens to her peers and faculty advisors very well and then leads the group forward into productive actions. For example, for the past two years, our ESG group has talked about creating/establishing a coalition of Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) in our college. Kate has taken the step of contacting the other RSOs and a coalition is now being formed. A noteworthy characteristic of Katie is that she always brings a calming presence to her peers and to the activities in which I have interacted with her through a well-grounded sense of confidence. Her contributions to courses and extracurricular activities are made through thoughtful, careful, and insightful comments and questions.

The courses in our BSPH program frequently involve group discussions, group projects and other group-based activities to which Ms. Hintz is a regular and meaningful participant. The cohort that Katie is a member of is recognized by the faculty for their excellent organization, strong interpersonal relationships, and collaborative approach. Katie is regularly active in these activities and her perspectives are respected by her peers and by the faculty. In these interactions it is easy to see her interest and background in the skills and knowledge effective program development and implementation.

In our classes Katie is consistently a very positive contributor. She is prepared, asks questions, and seeks to be internally motivated. I have specifically enjoyed the humor which she brings to the classroom. Several times I have laughed and smiled at the gentle, humorous way she has reminded me of something that I have indicated that I would do or bring the classroom but forgot to do so. Katie Hintz is a pleasure to be around.

Ms. Hintz has demonstrated the ability to apply the knowledge and skills we have embedded in the program in real life contexts. During her first year in the program, she demonstrated this through active participation in the development and implementation of a variety of activities in which our ESG chapter was involved. As she has moved into her final year in the program her ability to practically apply knowledge and skills is evidenced by her recent acquisition of a paid internship experience with

the Kalamazoo County Health (KCHD) Department. When we as faculty were contacted by KCHD for suggestions of students they could hire, Katie was our top choice.

During their final year, all our students are required to propose and complete a capstone research project. Katie's project is an undergraduate version of a systematic review focused in the disparities in maternal mortality among Black/African American mothers. The proposal for the capstone project is developed in the fall semester and completed in the spring semester. Katie's work in developing her proposal is well focused, thoughtful, and is progressing at or ahead of the pace that will allow her to submit an excellent proposal this fall.

In summary, Katie Hintz is an outstanding undergraduate student who is at the top of her cohort. I am confident that represents the values that were the hallmark of Dr. Smith's leadership. I fully support her application and recommend her for your strong consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Mark Kelley".

R. Mark Kelley, Ph.D.
Professor, Public Health
School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs