



November 28, 2023

RE: Letter of recommendation for Keenan Phillips

To Whom It May Concern:

I enthusiastically recommend Keenan Phillips for the Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship through the Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education. I am an Assistant Professor in Public Health Education at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), where Keenan is completing his MPH in Community Health Education. I first met Keenan when he started his MPH in August 2023. I am currently his professor for one of our core MPH courses (Public Health Theory and Strategies) and, in October 2023, he joined a team of Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) that I co-lead. Keenan has demonstrated a strong commitment and passion for social justice and public health, and his accomplishments both in and outside of the classroom demonstrate that Keenan has the drive and ability to be a future leader in the field of Public Health, and especially in the area of HIV research.

As Keenan's professor, it was very clear from the start of the semester that he is a dedicated student who is going to excel in the MPH program at UNCG. Keenan is a pleasure to have as a student in the classroom. He arrives to class prepared each week, and is consistently engaged in class discussions and small-group activities. Keenan's thoughtful comments and questions add depth in the classroom. When conducting both individual and group assignments, Keenan submits thoughtful and well-written work, demonstrating a strong understanding for how to apply theory to both public health research and practice.

During the first week of class, Keenan reached out to me, expressing his interest in conducting HIV research, and his desire to gain more skills and experience with research. Keenan was being proactive and professional, seeking all possible opportunities to gain the skills that he recognizes that he needs to achieve his goals. As a result of reaching out to me and other faculty, Keenan has joined a team of GRAs that I co-lead, and will be involved with multiple HIV research projects during the next semester. This work will allow Keenan to build on his lived experience, and gain important skills in research methodology that will help him to achieve his future goal of attaining a PhD in Public Health and being an HIV researcher.

Keenan brings his dedication and perseverance to everything he does, including seeking leadership roles at UNCG. This is demonstrated through Keenan's engagement with the UNCG Graduate Student Association and the Eta Sigma Gamma Honor Society. As Secretary of the Eta Sigma Gamma Honor Society, Keenan has gained valuable professional and leadership skills. In summary, Keenan is an excellent candidate for the Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship. I welcome the opportunity to discuss Keenan's qualifications further. Please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 201-341-9291 or by email at tgoldenberg@uncg.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamar", written over a horizontal line.

Tamar Goldenberg, PhD