

**ISABEL K LATZ, PH.D**

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To the review committee for, The Dr. Marion B. Pollock Fellowship

I am writing in strong support of Rebecca Blay's application for the Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship. Rebecca is a highly engaged student in our MPH program with valuable experience in teaching, student mentorship, and research assistance. Rebecca is currently taking 3 courses for 3.0 credit hours each and has an A-grade for all of these. Her GPA is at 4.0.

Rebecca reached out to me when she was admitted to our MPH program in 2022 to seek learning opportunities in form of internships or part-time employment, demonstrating her motivation to gain practical experience and support herself financially during her studies.

Prior to her MPH studies, Rebecca gained a Bachelor of Education in Home Economics with a focus on food and nutrition at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. She also gained valuable experience in teaching, student mentorship, and food preparation alongside her Bachelor program.

When Rebecca joined our program, she took the initiative to continuously inquire about opportunities to engage with public health professionals. Eventually I was able to connect her with an experienced policy advocate who was looking for assistance with his research on climate change topics to promote bills for better environmental health in the New Mexico legislature. Rebecca has demonstrated her in depth engagement with relevant materials for this role and simultaneously shows a strong dedication to her graduate studies.

Rebecca not only continuously sought opportunities to advance her professional skills while serving communities in need, she also brings a unique cultural perspective to our college and her work as an international student. Given her sincere dedication to her studies, professional career, and community service, she is the ideal candidate for this scholarship and I wholeheartedly support her application. Please contact me anytime should you have any questions or want to discuss my recommendation further. Respectfully,

Isabel K. Latz, Ph.D.

