

November 28th , 2023

Dear Foundation for Advancement of Health Education (FAHE) scholarship committee,

I am pleased to recommend Sara Crisenbery for the Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship. Sara is a graduate student in the Masters of Public Health Community Health Education program for which I am a professor. She is one of our most unique students, displaying a breadth of initiative and curiosity. Currently, Sara is one of our Graduate Assistants at the Eastern Michigan University Office of Health Promotion (EMU OHP). While there are ample public health education duties associated with the position, Sara has gone above and beyond by branching out to provide substance use education and resources to the local homeless community. She displays a keen interest in helping one of the most vulnerable populations in the Ypsilanti area. Further, Sara has sought out ways to garner financial resources for this population. The combination of compassion and persistence is worthy of praise. Sara is an engaging student who displays a passion for public health education. While she has shown academic accomplishment (currently maintaining a 4.0 grade point), I am writing to support her ability to apply that knowledge towards productive scholarship and professional activity. In my brief association with Sara she has adapted her academic skills to diverse community settings. Her schoolwork shows a high level of promise.

When I think about the type of scholar Sara is several features come to mind. First, she is a person who appreciates the applied nature of public health. Her passion goes beyond academic competence. Second, she is a passionate thinker and works to improve her knowledge and skills. Third, she challenges herself in a rigorous manner. And fourth, she is a mature person with strong interpersonal skills. She frequently reaches out to classmates to both help and be helped.

Sara displays a high level of promise as a public health educator and would benefit greatly from the Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship. She is currently a member of the Great Lakes Chapter of the Society of Public Health Education (GLC-SOPHE), and plans on attending the American Public Health Association's meeting next year. As a student, Sara has shown a high degree of professionalism and dedication to the field. I believe that the scholarship would help enable her goals in public health education and be significant for her growth.

In summary Sara is a bright, persistent, and engaging student. I recommend her with enthusiasm for the Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship. She is a candidate worthy of your consideration. Please let me know if there are any issues surrounding her application that you would like to discuss.

Sincerely,



John R. Sonnega, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
EMU Public Health