



November 14, 2023

The Delbert Oberteuffer Scholarship Committee
Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Taylor J. Arnold's application for the Delbert Oberteuffer Scholarship.

In 2015, our research team received a phone call from a faculty colleague at the University of Memphis. Knowing that we conducted community based research, the colleague wondered if we had an opening for a new staff member—specifically a student completing a Master's degree who was the “brightest student that [she had] ever had.” He, Taylor Arnold, applied, was hired, and we have been grateful to our Memphis colleague ever since.

I have known Taylor since 2016, when he came to Wake Forest University School of Medicine as a project manager. The primary study on which he has worked was a study of Latinx hired child farmworkers in North Carolina. These children were ages 10-17, all working for wages on farms. Taylor quickly understood the physical and developmental health issues these children faced, as well as the justice aspects of their situation. His work on this project led to his decision to return to graduate school in the Department of Public Health Education, at University of North Carolina Greensboro. In the 8 years since Taylor arrived in North Carolina, I have worked closely with him and had ample opportunity to see his strong work ethic, his quick mind, and his passion for working with children and youth.

The child farmworker study on which Taylor has worked is community-based participatory research. In order to begin to work with these children and to engage them in the study, Taylor quickly became involved with a partner organization, Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF). Among other programs, SAF works with middle and high school age Latinx child farmworkers to promote safety, healthy development, and educational success. Taylor worked with helping these youth understand research and ways to critically evaluate research and its findings. He helped supervise youth co-investigators participating in the research and aided them in their understanding of culturally-appropriate health education practices that they could develop for their peers. Products of Taylor's work include a set of policy briefs developed by the youth translating the findings of the larger study into documents suitable for community dissemination to policy makers, as well as a set of infographics to convey the information and a call to action in low literacy populations. Taylor has worked with regional, national, and international organizations to distribute these materials and to teach others how to develop and use such materials in health education and advocacy.

In the process of his work, Taylor has developed a network of colleagues in the area of child labor. As recent political events have led to the weakening of child labor protections nationally, these organizations have been at the forefront of pushing back to keep the risks to children and youth from worsening. He is regularly called upon to speak in national and international virtual conferences about the issues.

As a graduate student, Taylor has continued to bolster his professional resume in the area of child labor and health. He has applied for and received grants to conduct his own research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child farmworkers, and he has received scholarships from the Occupational Health Internship Program in 2021 and 2023 to present his work at national conferences. He was honored by the Society for Medical Anthropology for his development of policy briefs. His CV lists over 20 publications, including 4 of which he is first author. This record of productivity, while a student and employed, is comparable to many scholars already in faculty positions for public health.

On a personal level, Taylor is extremely bright and hard-working. He has been a level-headed team player and one to seek out critique to improve his work. His quiet self-assurance makes an impact in whatever situation he finds himself.

I recommend Taylor to you without hesitation. I believe you will be proud to count him among your scholarship recipients in the years to come. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any other information.

Sincerely,



Sara A. Quandt, PhD
Professor