



UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

November 23, 2024

Dear Scholarship Selection Committee:

I am so pleased to support McKenzie Bowers' application for the Dr. Becky J. Smith scholarship. She is an excellent student in the Public Health program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Her overall undergraduate GPA is 3.12. Although I've only known McKenzie for a few months I am impressed with the quality of her work, her responsiveness, and enthusiasm for what she's doing.

McKenzie will travel with me next summer to participate in an international internship program in Uganda, spending 6 weeks implementing and evaluating the Malaria Mastery Health Education program in four rural villages. She will also conduct malaria related research during the six-weeks. McKenzie was selected for this experience based on a conversation where she demonstrated a passion and commitment to public health and improving the lives of communities.

Since she was selected for the Uganda travel study, she volunteered to help lead the program fundraising campaign and has done a phenomenal job, providing great ideas, working with the other group members, ensuring that deadlines are met, and communicating with the team. I look forward to working with her in Uganda.

One thing that is evident in the short time that I've known McKenzie is that she is passionate about everything she decides to do. Her committed to pursuing a career in public health, and gaining experience to increase her ability to apply the knowledge and skills gained in the program is evident. McKenzie is smart, capable and has a consistent work ethic. I have been impressed by her initiative, and motivation to go above and beyond what is needed when working with her. She will be an excellent public health professional and deserving of the scholarship.

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Cathorall, DrPH, MPH, MCHES
Associate Professor of Public Health & Program Coordinator
School of Health and Applied Human Sciences