

1. Recommender's Name:

Text Response

Lillian Lin

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

1

2. Recommender's Email Address:

Text Response

lillian.lin@montana.edu

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

1

3. Applicant's name for which you are providing a recommendation:

Text Response

Kenneth Flagg

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

1

4. How long have you known the applicant and under what circumstances have you become familiar with the applicant's academic abilities?

Text Response

Kenneth Flagg has served a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) for Montana State University Statistical Consulting and Research Services (SCRS) since Fall 2016. SCRS GRAs are expected to provide advice, analyses, and other tools tailored to the needs and abilities of clients. GRAs work together on consulting projects with one serving as the lead consultant and one of the others serving as a sounding board. Key milestones are initial meeting notes which describe the project and its goals as well as relevant study design, data collection, graphical displays, or data analysis recommendations and a final report providing the promised statistical products and explanations. Written materials are reviewed by other GRAs and the Director (me). As the project progresses, the GRAs research statistical methods as needed, become more familiar with the scientific issues clients are addressing, and meet regularly with the clients, all usually with little oversight. Kenny immediately plunged into the work. While initially somewhat shy with clients, he readily engages once the client and Kenny get to know each other. I have received many compliments about his work with clients. His fellow GRAs work well with Kenny. As a senior GRA, he is frequently consulted not only on statistical issues but on our standard operating procedures (we use git for all of our work) and on consulting strategies.

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5. Please assess the applicant's ability to contribute to the Data Science for the Public Good Fellowship Program.

Text Response

Kenny has served as lead or secondary on approximately twelve projects with a behavioral or social sciences (SBS) focus. Topics and designs range from a professor developing a video-based intervention to reduce stigma about discussing suicide and suicide prevention she plans to test through a multi-year, multi-site randomized trial to several surveys assessing student engagement and professional identity to several health promotion projects led by students completing Capstone projects to earn a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. For some of these projects, the client has already decided many aspects of the study and collected data. For those projects Kenny tailored an analysis plan to the project and client's needs, worked with the client to ready the data for analysis, and then either tutored the client or analyzed the data and created a report. For other projects, the study was at a much earlier stage. In these cases, Kenny frequently worked with the client not only on the study design but also on many aspects of data collection strategy. While not formally trained as a SBS researcher, Kenny is well poised to collaborate as a statistician with investigators leading SBS research with minimal oversight. His experiences will bring a real world view to discussions of SBS research.

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6. How would you describe the applicant's motivation and initiative in pursuing his/her academic and career goals?

Text Response

Kenny Flagg is one of the most natural young statisticians that I know. His statistical intuitions are generally sound. He works hard and very effectively. The joke around the department is that "Kenny is always here" (he denies it). Others will speak to his academic abilities and progress in the doctoral program. It is my understanding that he has a collegial (vs. supervisor-employee) relationship with his advisor. He eagerly researches methods unfamiliar to him. I believe he would like to continue working as a statistician engaged in scientific research. Kenny avails himself of internship programs and all they have to offer every Summer. I believe he is sampling the opportunities that his training as an applied statistician will provide.

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

1