1. Recommender's Name:

Text Response
Phillipe Loher

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

2. Recommender's Email Address:

Text Response
PhillipeLoher@yahoo.com

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

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

Text Response
Yiqi (Annie) Tang

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
I am very happy to recommend Annie Tang to your Data Science for Public Good program. Annie is among the most passionate, motivated, and socially involved individuals I have ever met. I have known Annie since 2016 and have worked directly with her on a number of fronts. To give you some background about myself, I am worked for IBM for almost nine years where I held software engineering and management roles. For the past six and a half years, I have been working for Thomas Jefferson University as a Computational Biologist doing cancer research which involves leveraging various computer algorithm and data science techniques for use in the biological context. Two and a half years ago, I started a community group called the Machine Learning Group, this is where I first met Annie. This is a volunteer organization with a mission to inspire, advance knowledge, and promote hands-on experience in machine learning within our community. We do activities such as holding monthly knowledge presentations, taking part in hands on projects, and working on competitions. She first came to one of our data science sessions in the second half of 2016.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

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

Text Response
Immediately, Annie volunteered to take a leadership role in our Machine Learning Group. She became our academic liaison with Davidson College and helped us form a couple of relationships that strengthened our groups presence in the community. Her communication skills were concise and most importantly, her passion and enthusiasm really showed. Annie was also a very active group member, attending most sessions, helping organize some of the events, helping others, and helping grow our local data science community. For example, she was an active participant in a co-study group we organized (around a Stanford Machine Learning course) and Kaggle (kaggle.com) data science competitions. In 2017, two events that I worked with Annie on stick out. The first event was a Hackathon that three of us participated (Annie and myself included). The purpose of the hackathon was to analyze data given to us by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America non-profit and derive novel insight that can better help their organization. Part of the challenge was to identify what problems to go after and craft novel solutions. Annie contributed more than her fair share. She was extremely professional and helped craft a wonderful message and solution which consisted of various advanced data science algorithms. Our group became finalists and Annie and team presented on-stage in front of a large audience. A couple months later, Annie, myself, and another member participated in an innovation reverse pitch contest called Ignite NC. The idea centered around using data science and machine learning to make our road intersections smarter. By making intersections smarter, our technology could save more lives. We had stiff competition and ultimately, we won one of the large awards. Most importantly, in order to win, our idea, message, and technology know how had to be solid. Annie stayed on top of everyone and made sure we stayed organized and focused. Her competitiveness, professionalism, technical acumen, and enthusiasm helped tremendously.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

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

Text Response

Having gotten to know Annie since then, I believe her passion towards social good and determination to learn really sets her apart. She has worked with more non-profit organizations than I can keep up with. When we first met, I remember spending hours with her (per her insistence) brainstorming problems we can solve to make our community a better place. I think that Annie is wired to think about this and that doing social good is one of her passions in life.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1