



College of Science

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Ms. Kim Lyman
Data Science for Social Good Fellows Program
Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory
900 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Kim:

I am absolutely delighted to write in support of Ms. Claire Kelling's application for the Data Science for the Public Good Fellows Program. Claire is a Virginia Tech alumnus, where she graduated Summa Cum Laude, achieving an in-major GPA of an almost perfect 4.0 as a University Honors student with a dual major (Statistics and Economics) and a double minor (Women's & Gender Studies and Women's Studies Leadership). This year she is a graduate student in the Department of Statistics at the Pennsylvania State University. Given that she has just begun her graduate career, it's a bit premature to speculate on her specific academic and research contributions, but I am pleased to note that she has been quite successful in her first semester of graduate studies.

This award would recognize Ms. Kelling's research interests related to the prevention of violence against women and her many accomplishments in this regard. For example:

- During her time as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech, Claire led a number of organizations involved in social intervention, many focused on decreasing campus sexual assault and violence, including Take Back the Night Lead Coordinator and President of Womanspace at VT.
- Furthermore, I am extremely proud to mention that Claire was recognized by and The White House as a Champion of Change (www.whitehouse.gov/champions/past-champions) last year for her achievements in this area. She was invited to a ceremony at The White House and then she was subsequently invited back to give a presentation on her non-violence work in a program called "United State of Women."
- And, both for her community involvement and achievements, as well as her outstanding academic performance, Claire was selected by the Virginia Tech College of Science as the Outstanding Senior for academic year 2015-16.

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In addition, at Virginia Tech last year, Claire repeatedly demonstrated an amazing ability to contribute to the university. For example, she served as:

- An undergraduate teaching assistant in my Introductory Statistics course (STAT 2004). Excelling in that role, Claire coordinated the class administration (including working with eight graduate student recitation leaders), wrote up all the homework solution sets, proctored make-up exams, held remedial teaching sessions, and on occasion even taught the main class (of 230 students) when I had a scheduling conflict.
- An undergraduate research assistant, she helped Virginia Tech's Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS) project recover from a number of setbacks including the death of the principal investigator. She also conducted research for the department's Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis (LISA) focused on assessing LISA's impact on university research.

Let me close by saying that Ms. Claire Kelling has my highest recommendation. In terms of academics, leadership, and service to the community, her vitae clearly speaks for itself: she is absolutely amazing in this regard. I have absolutely no doubt that Claire will make significant and notable contributions to the improvement of human welfare and that she will be a role model and leader in our profession. For these reasons, Claire would be an outstanding member of your Data Science for the Public Good Fellows Program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 540-231-7754 or rf@vt.edu.

Sincerely,



R.D. Fricker, Jr.
Professor and Head,
Department of Statistics