

1. Recommender's Name:

Text Response

Gary Skaggs

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

1

2. Recommender's Email Address:

Text Response

gskaggs@vt.edu

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

1

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

Text Response

Kevin Krost

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

Kevin has been a doctoral student in the Educational Research and Evaluation Program at Virginia Tech and will complete the third year of his program this spring. I am his advisor. From me, he has taken three measurement/psychometric courses: Instrument Development and Validation, Measurement Theory in Education, and Advanced IRT. In these courses, he learned to use IRTPRO, flexMIRT, and jMetrik and developed a solid foundation in validity and classical and item response theories. In addition, I supervised Kevin's graduate assistantship during the 2016-2017 academic year during which he supported my introductory quantitative methods research class.

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

One of Kevin's strengths is the ability to explain complex statistical concepts to students and faculty. He has conducted several workshops for students on using statistical and psychometric software, such as jMetrik, STATA, GPower, and SPSS. In these, as well as in class presentations, he prepares extremely well and targets his presentation to the skill level of the audience. At the 2016 NCME conference, he presented his master's thesis work on DIF at an electronic poster session. The session was attended by individuals from widely varied experience levels, from graduate students to senior scholars. He was able to discuss his work clearly with everyone who came, but at their level of expertise. Kevin came to our program with a strong interest in differential item functioning (DIF) methods for detecting item bias in tests. He has continued that interest in our program. He and I are currently examining DIF methods for tests constructed and analyzed using cognitive diagnostic models. In this work, he has learned to use psychometric R packages, such as gdina and cdm. Additionally, he has widened his research interests to include CATs by taking workshops on CAT simulation research at professional conferences. I believe his interest in your program stems from an intense curiosity in research endeavors in a wide range of disciplines. You will note from his cv that, while Kevin is focused primarily on psychometrics, he has experience and interest in a wide range of quantitative analytic areas. I think this broad range along with his psychometric specialization will make him an excellent fit to your summer program.

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

On a personal level, Kevin is extremely personable and acts professionally in everything he does. He is a self-starter who is also very comfortable working with a team. A major motivation for his research on DIF is a strong commitment to ethical practice and fairness in testing. On campus, he is a Diversity Scholar, an award from the Virginia Tech Graduate School that recognizes commitment and work to promote diversity and inclusion. Becoming an IDA Summer Associate would greatly benefit Kevin's goal of becoming a psychometric professional. I also believe you will find Kevin to be a fine addition to and a wonderful ambassador for your internship.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1