Gene Sussman

Senior Analyst

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Admissions Committee

Harris School of Public Policy

The University of Chicago

1155 E. 60th St.

Chicago, IL 60637

To the Admissions Committee at the Harris School of Public Policy,

I understand that Meaghan Byrne is applying to the Evening Part-Time Masters Program at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago, and I am thrilled to write in support of her application. I have known Meaghan for two years, seeing her in both academic and work environments. I currently work with Meaghan at IBM where she is a senior analyst supporting the software solutions group, specifically focusing in hybrid cloud. Prior to IBM we were classmates and members of the same cohort at the Yale School of Management, from which we both received an MBA in May.

In my experience, Meaghan is an active and engaged presence. She is passionate and energetic, with a talent for communicating complex ideas and integrating qualitative and quantitative information with a bias toward action. She has a knack for speaking up when others might remain quiet, and often seeks to integrate or synthesize multiple points of view with a common thread.

At Yale, Meaghan excelled in our strategic leadership class, which explored complex decision-making in situational analyses. She questioned assumptions, has an instinct for human motivation, and cares deeply about the social impact of corporate and public policy. She was never shy about bringing her perspective into a classroom of over 100 students and executives of major corporations.

Meaghan’s focus in technology at IBM is centered on gaining expertise in an international company at the intersection of data analytics and enabled intelligence. IBM’s global platform provides a deep pool of expertise in advanced technology and multiple to have an impact in the increasingly cooperative lines between corporate and public policy. This is where Meaghan’s energy, empathy, and ability to communicate play a key role. These abilities are vital when dealing with complex issues and interacting daily with people around the world.

Meaghan’s academic background and extracurricular activities at Princeton, and her career prior to Yale in digital marketing and communications, fuel her social awareness and impels her to action. Her MBA and IBM career built upon this foundation with core skills in finance and technology. The part-time program at the Harris School of Public Policy will add public policy depth to Meaghan’s already formidable repertoire, and she will be able to bring these skills and perspectives to IBM. She will certainly add tremendous depth, energy, and perspective to the first evening masters cohort at the Harris School of Public Policy. I highly recommend Meaghan Byrne to your program.

Sincerely,

Gene Sussman