

October 27, 2017

Dear College of the Environment Travel Fund Committee:

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation for Laura H. Spencer as part of her application to the College of the Environment Travel and Meeting Fund. Laura seeks to attend the Aquaculture America conference this February in Las Vegas, which is a joint event held by the World Aquaculture Society and the United States Aquaculture Society. If awarded, Laura will have the opportunity to connect with researchers and industry from around the world, and highlight her research on the Olympia oyster. Because her masters research focuses on shellfish aquaculture, expanding her knowledge of commercial practices will augment the impact of her findings and recommendations to the industry. Additionally, as an early career graduate student, the experience of attending this conference will have a substantial impact on her professionally and provide her with inspiration in pursuing novel research projects. While Laura has been awarded a prestigious NSF fellowship, this award does not cover travel, registration fees or room and board. My lab currently has four graduate students. The amount of travel funding for students would depend on which grant they are supported from. Currently, Laura's primary funding is from her NSF fellowship and not one of my sponsored projects. Generally speaking I am able to cover about \$1000/year for each student's travel and meetings. Laura has also applied for the Aquaculture America Travel Grant. Scholarship support would ensure that Laura could participate in the Aquaculture America conference.

Sincerely,



Steven Roberts