

2/09/2017

Dr. Michael Greenberg
Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean of the Faculty
EJB School of Planning and Public Policy
Dr. Debra Borie-Holtz Endorsement Letter

Dear Dr. Greenberg,

I have known Dr. Debra Borie-Holtz for the past two years and have interacted with her extensively in her capacity as my research assistant advisor and student mentor during my undergraduate experience at the EJB School of Planning and Public Policy. I have come to know Dr. Borie-Holtz very well and therefore can confidently comment on some aspects of her advising and teaching style.

Dr. Borie-Holtz is a dedicated and empowering instructor that well embodies the EJB Bloustein School mission and higher educational standards. Specifically, I worked to produce GIS maps that supplemented several of the many various research and service projects Dr. Borie-Holtz assists in including a longitudinal community health survey for CBO New Brunswick Tomorrow, and additional crime statistics and voter approval rating research projects. Through our interactions on these ventures I have observed her strong skill set in providing resources to her students, her ability to constructively engage while allowing student learning independence, and the practicality and real-world application of her lessons.

Dr. Borie-Holtz works eagerly to solve public problems and advance research while also aligning with her goal of preparing students for professional careers in service, planning and healthcare. One of the ways I have noticed she effectively does so is by properly allocating and offering substantial resources that will allow students to optimize their own learning experience and feel motivated to do so. I consistently remember her working to ensure the best and proper places, software and products were available for her students and mentees to optimize their productivity. Her biggest resource she made available was her own time, as I noted she was always patient, pleasant, and helpful to her students when they would drop in for office hours, or stop by unannounced. Dr. Borie-Holtz also has a unique quality of identifying and polishing strong skills in students, and then connecting and introducing others with similar skills in order to advance a specific project as well as the Bloustein network in general.

Out of all the professors I have had the opportunity of interacting with as an undergraduate, no one has better prepared me for 'life after college' more than Dr. Debra Borie-Holtz. She has a very firm grasp of the skills employers in the job market are seeking in recent graduates and she actively works to develop these skills in all her students. Skills I have learned solely through her including syntax writing in SAS, increased GIS skills, stronger communication and writing skills, and especially survey methodology foundations where all capabilities that have become my proudest professional qualities and the best marketable for future graduate schools and employers. Ultimately it is professors like her that give recent alumni like myself a feeling of satisfaction and pride in Rutgers University. Often, in my current place of employment as a Statistician at the United States Department of Agriculture, my

superiors and peers are impressed with my level of education and skill set I have acquired at the Bloustein School, and these skills have come directly through Dr. Borie-Holtz and her foundational expertise teaching styles. Some adjectives that come to my mind when describing her include empowering, strategic, fair, receptive, and thoughtful. I personally have benefitted tremendously from knowing Dr. Borie-Holtz, as well as seen many others become better thinkers, more motivated and stronger qualified professionals from knowing Dr. Borie-Holtz and sincerely hope that her efforts as a teacher and adviser will be rewarded.

Thank you,

Luz
Public Health
Class of 2016