

Directed to: Michael Greenberg, Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean of the Faculty
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How do you put into words the significance of a person that has been there for you since the moment you met? Words do no justice in describing the impact Debbie has had on my life and surely the lives of all her students. I remember the day I met Professor Borie-Holtz. I stared at her in awe as she introduced herself in our first of many courses we would experience together. I remember not only being amazed by her accomplishments, but also by her genuine nature and humility. Her approachability made it so easy for me to walk with her to her car after class discussing my passions and seeking advice. It was then that I knew this woman was special. This woman was not an average educator, but one who focused on connecting with her students and lifting them up to achieve their dreams. She truly cares about her students and I was excited and ready to learn from her.

It wasn't long after I first met Debbie nearly five years ago that I fell ill and needed to take leave from school. Again, Debbie was there for me. She was the support system I needed during a difficult time and assisted me in my decision to put my health first. She assured me I was making the right decision and that she would be right there waiting for me when I returned. Healthy and back on my feet, she took me under her wing. I took three courses with her that first semester back. Her teaching style was illuminating and deeply grounded in real world experiences. I had the honor of interning with Professor Borie-Holtz working on survey research for her book *The Politics of Regulatory Reform*. I was able to gain professional experience under the guidance of a distinguished researcher. Debbie also kept me in mind for other opportunities she believed would expand my interests and knowledge. She brought me on a team working on education reform in Colorado. She exposed me to PANJAAPOR, the Pennsylvania/New Jersey Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. She invited me to two conferences to learn from experts in the field. If it were not for Debbie and her unwavering support of her students, I would not have had these eye-opening experiences that helped me grow as a student and person inside and outside of the classroom.

Debbie always believed in me and supported me through my undergraduate, graduate, professional, and personal life. Debbie has written countless letters of recommendation for me and that is because she truly knows me. She takes the time to connect with her students and, most of all, she sincerely cares. Debbie is more than an instructor to me, more than a supervisor, a mentor, or a role model. Debbie is a friend. Debbie is a precious, dynamic value to this university. I admire her for all that she is and all that she has done to make this university and this world a better place. These are the relationships students dream of and universities hope to foster. Debbie is a gem to this institution and certainly a treasure in my life. I am happy and proud to know her. My name is Kellie and I am offering my strongest endorsement of Dr. Debbie Borie-Holtz.

Sincerely,



Kellie
MPP/MCRP
Class of 2018