

Stuart Shapiro, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Faculty
Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
33 Livingston Ave., Room 536
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Dr. Shapiro,

It is with great pleasure to recommend Dr. Debra Borie-Holtz for a promotion to Associate Professor in Teaching at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. In Fall 2016, I met Professor Borie-Holtz by taking her course, Introduction to Planning, Policy and Health. She assisted me in obtaining a research assistant opportunity for winter of 2016. Fortunately, we stayed in touch and in Spring 2018 I enrolled in her Research Methods course. In Spring 2019, I was grateful to have Professor Borie-Holtz as my Professional Practical Internship Supervisor. I consider Professor Borie-Holtz to be my academic and professional mentor.

Professor Debra Borie-Holtz has shown great ability to connect with and inspire her students. In the first class I had with her, I immediately felt comfortable as she encouraged us to reach out to her for any guidance. She relates lessons to real life situations or examples, which stimulates students to formulate correlations. One way she did this was by bringing in notable and diverse guest speakers, which proved to be invaluable in aiding students to develop their own professional networks. She is prepared for each class and keeps an organized Sakai/Canvas page. This was exceptionally helpful for staying on track and understanding our expectations. Additional materials were always provided to assist those struggling with the topic or looking to learn more.

Professor Borie-Holtz encourages critical thinking to motivate students to research topics they are passionate about. I came to her at the end of the Fall 2018 semester, asking for guidance as I was unsure what I should do for my Professional Practical Internship. She showed interest in my professional and educational development and took time out of her busy schedule to mentor me. While showing me different paths I could take, Professor Borie-Holtz inspired me to research each and how to come to the best decision as to which would best fit the direction I wanted to take my career.

In closing, Professor Debra Borie-Holtz has demonstrated she is an asset to the Bloustein School and is certainly deserving of promotion to Associate Professor in Teaching.

Kind Regards,
Shealynn
Public Policy
Class of 2019