

9 January 2023

Dear Graduate Reviewer,

I have known Lea since the fall of 2018, when she enrolled in our honors course entitled "Coupled Human and Natural Systems to Address Complex Environmental Issues." This is a two-semester, elective course that requires an independent research project working in a team. I supervised Lea's project with her student partner, which focused on the ecological impact of conventional human burials in comparison with other burial systems, such as cremation and organic systems. This research required their contacting a local township cemetery manager's approval to take soil samples for analysis, as well as energy expenditure estimates for different burial systems. Although this may sound like an unusual project, it was very creative and well researched. The results from their project were presented via a research poster during the university's annual University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum in the spring of 2019.



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After her graduation, we reconnected when Lea served as the Environmental Educator at Michigan's Grand Traverse Conservation District this past year. She coordinated several events that involved Specialists and Educators from Michigan State University (among others) in an incredibly organized manner. Her efforts included organizing planning meetings, scheduling, marketing and outreach before the event, and followup evaluation of the events afterwards. Her organizational skills were exceptional, and resulted in well attended and enriching experiences for local citizens. She also demonstrated a natural ability to make connections among local natural resource partners, and speak with knowledge and experience while coordinating these educational programs.

I highly recommend Lea for a graduate appointment to your program. She has the research background and organizational skills to achieve her goals, and make a significant contribution to existing research fields.

Sincerely,

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