



**SCHOOL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

January 30, 2019

[REDACTED]

Subject: Recommendation for Molly Salamunovich [REDACTED]

To the Scholarship Selection Committee:

I am pleased to provide this recommendation for Ms. Molly Salamunovich in her application for your scholarship. I have known Molly for just over two years since meeting her during her interview for our program, and currently as a very strong student in our Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program, from which she will graduate in August of 2020. I will address each of her qualifications below.

Molly is a remarkably hard worker and an avid seeker of knowledge and experiences that expand her professional development as exemplified in her ability to not only hold down two part-time jobs but to be within the top 2% of her class academically. This speaks of an outstanding work ethic, extraordinary time management, and being skilled in prioritization. This work ethic was well-honed through her undergraduate education when she used a combination of scholarships and her own earnings, to graduate with very small loan amount, an amazing feat in these times of high tuition. A feature of her hardworking style is that she is willing to give to others. An example comes from the recent anatomy course I taught, with Molly as a student. She was at the top of class performance-wise and could have easily relied on that knowledge to do well and minimize her time in the cadaver lab. However, knowing there were classmates that were struggling with the content, Molly would stay well after lab sessions ended, tutoring and coaching her peers. She would even offer after-hours sessions to her peers to help them succeed.

Molly is a student of high integrity, being honest and forthright in her dealings with faculty and peers. She is committed to social justice as demonstrated through her commitment to volunteer work that has tended to serve those who are in some way disadvantaged (e.g., homelessness via Night Strike and Project Homeless Connect, people with disabilities via Go Baby Go or Special Olympics). This aligns well with our curricular focus on occupational justice (i.e., an OT perspective to work toward equitable access to meaningful time use, when people are systematically deprived of opportunities to engage in activities that support their health and welfare). Her passion and hard work in these volunteer efforts have been recognized through two community service awards. She also has demonstrated a willingness to advocate for herself and her peers in situations in which the student voice was not being effectively heard by administration. She advocated in an assertive and respectful way that helped bring resolution to the situation. I witnessed this also in the anatomy course. When an error appeared in a powerpoint slide or was spoken in lecture or lab, Molly was very respectful in offering a correction in a way that made it easy to present the corrected information to the class.

This last example helps highlight another skill of Molly's and that is in interpersonal communication. She is assertive while being sensitive, respectful, collaborative, and kind in her communication. She appreciates the value of mutual back and forth in a conversation or

discussion, neither dominating, nor shrinking from expressing her opinion. She is open to others' points of view and is skilled at perspective-taking. In so doing, she shows compassion towards, and understanding of, people from a wide range of backgrounds and I think that this quality is a motivator in her social justice work. Molly is a woman of solid character. In addition to the traits described above, Molly is patient, punctual, and an enthusiastic participant in teaching and learning activities as well as the many extracurricular activities where we have worked together. These skills contribute to, and become apparent, in some of her leadership roles such as her service to the School of OT's Advisory Board where she serves as secretary on the Executive Committee. This is a prestigious role that implies a high level of trust in her discernment, as well as excellent skills in organizing, communicating, and tracking the business of the Board in their quarterly meetings and more frequent Executive Committee meetings. Molly's role in the School's Ambassador Club also demands effective leadership and communication skills and she has done that work admirably.

Molly has incredible potential to contribute to the profession of occupational therapy, the many clients that she will serve in her career, and the institutions for which she will work or volunteer. The many ways in which she demonstrates the foundations to realize that potential begin with her high level of intelligence in the multiple intelligences of social, emotional, and academic thinking and acting. She is a quick study picking up on subtle nuances when new topics or techniques are presented in lecture and lab and is an effective problem solver, all skills that suggest that she will exhibit strong clinical reasoning in her practice as an OT. Molly is insatiably curious, a great trait for a life-long learner and continuously seeks to understand the why behind the what of things she is learning. This is probably one reason that she has strongly adopted an approach of evidence based support for her clinical reasoning. Not relying solely on others to generate the evidence, Molly has already presented a scholarly poster on post-concussion recovery at our 2018 annual Occupational Therapy Association of Oregon statewide conference; a rare accomplishment for a student this early in the program. Ms. Salamunovich's potential was recognized early and she received a coveted First Year OT Student Scholarship in 2017 and an Interprofessional Pilot Program Student Scholarship for her participation in the Aphasia Network Adventure Weekend Camp in 2018.

In summary, in her approximately 18 months of our three year doctoral program, Molly Salamunovich has contributed to the School of Occupational Therapy through her passion, curiosity, creativity, teamwork, and life-long learning. She is building a strong foundation for future career development and has strong potential for a great career as an occupational therapist in whatever field of practice she chooses. I am excited to see what Ms. Salamunovich will accomplish in her professional career and expect that she will be the type of servant-leader that is sorely needed in healthcare and in our communities. Based on my limited knowledge of your scholarship program I feel that Molly Salamunovich is a strong candidate for your scholarship and one who could represent your mission well, while building on her commitment to excellence in practice and the profession of occupational therapy. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance in this recommendation.

Sincerely,



John A. White, Jr., Ph.D., FAOTA, OTR/L  
Professor

Cc: Molly Salamunovich  
Student file