

April 14, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my distinct pleasure to be writing this letter of recommendation for Cassie Nooyen. Cassie is a very bright, thoughtful and caring individual, whose contributions on campus have made a huge impact. I have known Cassie for almost two years, and am honored to share the many ways in which I have come to know her.

I first met Cassie during Freshman Orientation. After interviewing for a Research Fellowship, Cassie was selected to join the Full Spectrum Learning team, a strategic initiative of the college, to assist with the design and development of the FSL website. Like many freshmen, Cassie was initially shy and a bit reserved, but it didn't take long for her to become comfortable in her role with this team and add her voice to help steer the direction of the project.

With Cassie's past experiences building websites and her keen eye for design, the Full Spectrum Learning site quickly transformed into something that was both attractive and informative, serving as a hub of information for our constituents. (https://fullspectrumlearning.knight.domains/) I continue to appreciate Cassie's intrinsic motivation to make incremental improvements to the site, her willingness to accept constructive feedback, and her genuine desire to make this the best resource it can be.

One of the things that immediately impressed me with Cassie was her clear sense of purpose. Many students are undecided as incoming freshmen, but it was obvious to me that Cassie had been exploring career options well in advance of coming to St. Norbert College. At the same time, she continues to remain open to new ideas and possibilities with which her learning will take her. Her most recent work with the data grid on the FSL website has prompted her to consider pursuing an advanced degree in data visualization. Cassie has demonstrated what it means to be a life-long learner, and her enthusiasm for learning something new is infectious.

Cassie's growth over the past two years is reflected in her research fellowship goals which started as very tactical and have developed into personal leadership goals. As a student leader for Full Spectrum Learning, Cassie is responsible for organizing meetings, setting agendas, ensuring equal distribution of work and mentoring newer members of the team. While I think it has been difficult at times to "let go" of some of the things she started, I've truly enjoyed seeing her rise to the occasion that this new role has offered her.

This past fall, Cassie and I had a conversation on vocation. I appreciated her invitation to an introspective dialogue about our calling in life. Cassie's faith is her foundation which continues to guide her, and she models the Norbertine principle of being a contemplative in action through her open blog https://crnooyen.knight.domains/. Cassie's openness to learning about herself and being vulnerable by sharing her thoughts on the web is to be commended. She models the kind of digital citizenship we should all aspire to by creating content for the web, making it a better place.

I look forward to working with Cassie over the next two years. I'm grateful that our relationship has matured to that of a colleague where we continue to learn from one another. Cassie is a reliable, reflective and responsible student who has a bright future ahead of her.

Sincerely,

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