



Yale University

*Amanda Kowalski*  
*Associate Professor of Economics*  
*Department of Economics*  
*Telephone: 202-670-7631*  
*amanda.kowalski@yale.ed*

November 2015

### **TEACHING RECOMMENDATION FOR JULIA GARLICK**

Dear Selection Committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to provide a teaching recommendation for Julia Garlick. Julia served as the teaching assistant for my undergraduate health economics course three times, in spring 2015, spring 2014, and fall 2012. My course, "Econ 405: The Economics of Health and Health Care," is an advanced lecture course targeted to junior and senior economics majors and limited in enrollment to 30. The course includes a weekly discussion section, which Julia led as the teaching assistant.

Julia took a remarkable amount of initiative in designing the discussion section. One remarkable manifestation of that initiative is that Julia designed a separate syllabus for the discussion section and distributed it to the students at the start of the course. She planned some discussion sections to review skills and others to provide in-depth discussion of academic papers only touched upon during the lectures, and she coordinated with me so that her sections would dovetail seamlessly with the lectures and assignments. At the start of the course, she held section in the computer lab to review Stata skills, and before each assignment and exam, she made herself available to answer questions at times convenient for the students.

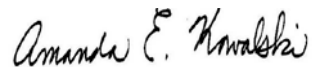
In February 2014, I attended a discussion section in which she provided more in-depth discussion of an academic paper, focusing on the *AER* publication that accompanies the Rand Health Insurance Experiment. Julia effectively engaged the students, getting all of them to speak in section. She also pushed the students to use their higher-order thinking skills. For example, instead of just teaching the students with the Rand Health Insurance Experiment did, she asked them if the results were surprising and she asked them what they would have done differently. She also provided them with professionally formatted and detailed handouts that summarized the content.

Outside of the sections themselves, I was impressed with Julia's initiative. In the second year that we taught the course together, she asked me if she could add a section participation grade to encourage students to get more out of her discussion sections, and I was happy to accommodate her request. Each of the three years that we taught the course, Julia refined her existing content and added new content.

I have read Julia's teaching evaluations, and they are very positive. In the first year that she served as a teaching assistant, she had a very limited background in health economics, and that was reflected in her early evaluations, but her later evaluations were almost uniformly positive. Julia graded the assignments and responded to the students in a timely manner, and I think that doing so earned her the good impression of most students. Other students found Julia to be a very helpful resource in their investigations of whether to pursue graduate school.

I will miss Julia's presence in my course upon her graduation, but I am confident that future students will benefit from Julia's teaching. I offered to write this teaching reference because her teaching is so strong that she deserves for her potential employers to be informed about it. I give her my very strongest teaching recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda E. Kowalski".

Amanda E. Kowalski