

April 4, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Carnegie Mellon Institute for Strategy and Technology (CMIST) is pleased to nominate Marissa Pekular for selection as the Carnegie Mellon Women's Association outstanding female senior student in Dietrich College. Marissa is deeply committed to the advancement of women in her academic, professional, and co-curricular pursuits and will be an excellent representative for the college.

Marissa is an Andrew Carnegie Society Scholar and a member of the Dietrich College Senior Honors Program. She has earned a place on the Dietrich College Dean's List with High Honors for every semester at CMU, and currently holds a 3.96 QPA. Marissa is graduating with a BS in International Relations and Political Science and a minor in Professional Writing. Committed to a career in public service and government, Marissa has completed internships at the local, state, and federal levels of government. She has routinely distinguished herself from peers through her dedication to hard work, enthusiastic approach to challenges, and personal resilience.

Marissa has conducted numerous research projects at CMU and most have centered on gender equity and health justice. Through her Dietrich College Senior Honors Thesis, Marissa investigated the nation's worsening maternal health crisis while exploring its connections to the past. She looks forward to pursuing her passion for women's health and birth justice through research and advocacy-driven work in her future career.

She served as the Vice President of the Carnegie Mellon University Chapter of the Women's Network—the largest collegiate women's organization in the US, dedicated to cultivating and celebrating women's career ambitions. In this role, she regularly plans campus events such as resume consultations, confidence-building workshops, and networking meet and greets to promote members' success. Marissa is a member of the CMU Chapter of Women in International Security, the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, Mortar Board, and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is also a volunteer notetaker for the CMU Office of Disability Resources—indicative of her true nature and desire for service.

Marissa's dedication to empowering women is woven throughout all of her work- academic coursework, scholarly research, internships, and student organizations. Her strong academics, focus on meaningful policy work and on clear communications, and desire to contribute meaningfully to the CMU campus community, local government, and national government is unparalleled. Marissa does all of this while remaining humble and exceptionally grateful- a combination not frequently found amongst her peers. CMIST is incredibly proud of her hard work,

dedication, and passion. I give Marissa Pekular my highest recommendation for selection. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information at ehalf@andrew.cmu.edu or 412-268-7082.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily Half". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Half
Deputy Director, Academic Affairs