

Scholarship Committee  
Educational Audiology Association  
700 McKnight Park Drive  
Suite 708  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

4/16/2021

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am honored to write a strong letter of support for Ms. Natasha Seaton who is applying for an EAA Doctoral Scholarship. Ms. Seaton has been a student in the Doctor of Audiology program in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences since the fall of 2019. She was a student in my Advanced Audiological Assessment Lab course during the fall of 2019 and is currently taking my Pediatric Audiology Course. She contributes regularly to class discussions and I always appreciate the comments she shares with the class based on her knowledge and life experiences.

During her prior professional experiences in New York, Ms. Seaton worked with hearing impaired children and their families, not as an audiologist, but as a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Thus, she came into our program with a strong desire to not only provide services for hearing impaired children and families but also saw the need for and importance of interprofessional collaboration to attain the best outcomes for children with complex and sometimes competing needs.

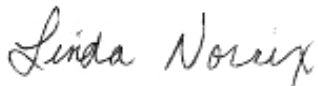
Ms. Seaton is keenly aware of the shortage of Pediatric Audiologists. Because of this, for her Audiology Doctoral Project she has chosen to explore reasons for the current shortage of Audiologists who work with children in educational settings. She is currently in the process of creating a survey, that she will distribute to Audiologists around the country, to determine what factors (e.g., educational and clinical training preparation, personal motivating factors, and opportunities available), contribute to an Audiologist pursuing or not pursuing a career in Educational Audiology. Although this is a first step to understand the shortage, the information from her ADP will provide valuable insight to possible solutions to recruit more Audiologists into the educational setting.

Although I have not yet had an opportunity to work with Ms. Seaton in a pediatric clinical setting, I have had an opportunity to observe her critical thinking abilities and passion for the pediatric population through simulations that we created during the Pandemic in the fall of 2020. I know from my interactions with her that she will quickly be able to take a lead role, not only in assessments of infants and children, but also when delivering diagnostic information and

counseling families whose child has a newly identified hearing loss. I also know that she is extremely excited to be in a pediatric-only clinical setting working with the population she adores. Any preceptor will be fortunate to mentor Ms. Seaton.

Ms. Seaton is a worthy candidate for an EAA Scholarship. Because of her academic excellence, strength as a budding clinician, and commitment to serving children with hearing loss and their families, she has a promising future as a Pediatric Audiologist. I am confident that she will be a professional who advocates for all children with hearing loss, particularly for the audiology services that are so critical for learning in the primary and secondary educational settings. I strongly recommend she be considered for an EAA Scholarship. If you have any questions about her qualifications, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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