



**COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES  
Department of Communication Sciences  
and Disorders**

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April 28, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in very strong support of Trudy Jacobs's application for Educational Audiology Association Doctoral student scholarship. Trudy is currently a second-year student, enrolled in our clinical audiology doctorate (AuD) program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa. I have known Trudy in multiple capacities since she started in our program in 2021. Trudy has worked as a graduate research assistant in my lab. She was also a teaching assistant for my undergraduate aural rehabilitation course this past spring. Thus, I have had the opportunity to get to know her quite well and can unequivocally state that she has exhibited a strong interest in pediatric audiology and educational audiology since she started in our program. She has actively sought out ways to increase her knowledge in these areas through research, volunteer, and clinical experiences.

Since she started her AuD, Trudy has been heavily involved in volunteer work for the University of Iowa Sound Awareness for Everyone (UISAFE), a student group that promotes hearing conservation across the lifespan. On her own initiative, Trudy adapted the Dangerous Decibels program to preschoolers in the Iowa City area. She has traveled to multiple preschool programs to teach young children about their hearing and why it's important to protect your ears. She is currently developing strategies for measuring preschoolers' knowledge about hearing conservation before and after the training program, and plans to revisit the preschools in a few months to provide follow-up visits. Her volunteer work in hearing conservation has also extended to future teachers, in the form of presentations about hearing conservation with students in the University of Iowa College of Education. In addition to her volunteer work with UI SAFE, Trudy also volunteered to help at an Iowa Hands and Voices/EHDI family support group activity on a weekend, which was located two hours away from Iowa City. Finally, and most applicable to this scholarship application, Trudy is currently serving on the student committee for the Educational Audiology Association.

Trudy's exceptional qualities are displayed through her strong work ethic, superior judgment, and excellent communication skills. She is consistently seeking out opportunity to increase her knowledge and experience with regards to family-centered care and pediatrics. Trudy sought out clinical placements in our summer preschool program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, where she worked with speech-language pathology students to provide group and

individual aural habilitation. She has also worked as a teaching assistant in our department. I requested Trudy personally as my TA for Rehabilitative Audiology last year because of comments from other professors who have worked with her that she is extremely dependable and reliable as a TA, and had a strong interest in pediatrics, which has a heavy emphasis in this undergraduate course.

Trudy's undergraduate and graduate academic records clearly demonstrate her promise as a future pediatric audiologist. Trudy is able to integrate her knowledge from her didactic coursework into the clinical situations she encounters. This was apparent to me this semester, when she volunteered to present to undergraduates about a complicated pediatric patient that she worked with during a "grand rounds" in my aural rehabilitation course. She is also interested in networking and disseminating the knowledge she has gained during graduate school, as this summer she will be presenting at the Educational Audiology Association conference in Florida.

In summary, Trudy has shown herself to be a strong student leader in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Iowa, with a vested interest in educational/pediatric audiology. Her collaborative nature, professionalism, positive attitude, and attention to detail are an asset to the field of audiology. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Walker".

Elizabeth Walker, PhD, CCC-A/SLP  
Associate Professor  
University of Iowa  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders