

Fries Center for Global Studies

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Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am writing this letter to recommend Ms. Julia Augustyn, a student at Wesleyan University, and a distinguished member of the Global Engagement Minor community that I oversee, for the Polish American Women's Scholarship. In reviewing the opportunity, I am convinced she is an ideal applicant.

Ms. Augustyn stood out in my Introduction to Global Engagement Seminar in her sophomore year for her eagerness to learn, her commitment to the subject, and her excellent interpersonal skills. From our first meeting, she distinguished herself with her sharp intellect, curiosity, and profound self-awareness. As her professor, I was consistently impressed by how she brought her Polish heritage into class discussions and writings with both pride and depth. What Ms. Augustyn develops through her work is never surface-level, it is thoughtful, honest, and committed to bridging her personal identity with wider, systematic, global issues.

As Ms. Augustyn progressed through the Global Engagement Minor, she continued to impress. In her capstone portfolio, more than half of her intercultural reflections centered on her Polish roots. She demonstrated how her heritage has shaped her academic, linguistic, and environmental interests, making it clear that being Polish is central to her purpose.

Moreover, Ms. Augustyn takes initiative. She actively seeks out ways to connect with the Polish community both locally and abroad. She was recently accepted into the Kosciuszko Foundation Summer Studies program—an opportunity that will allow her to study in Poland and strengthen her cultural ties. This pursuit is yet another example of her proactive nature and strong sense of Polish identity.

In regard to her positionality in the Northeast, Ms. Augustyn has exemplified her commitment to environmental concerns in Connecticut. She is an Environmental Professionals of Connecticut (EPOC) scholar, which recognizes students preparing for careers as Technical Environmental Professionals in the state, and it is a testament to Ms. Augustyn's long-term investment in the environmental wellbeing of the Northeast. Her academic path in Earth and Environmental Science is already having impact, and I have no doubt that she will continue to contribute to climate resilience efforts and public service in the region.

In sum, Julia Augustyn is one of the most exemplary students I have taught. Her academic excellence, cultural leadership, and dedication to environmental service mark her as a standout candidate for this scholarship, and frankly, we would *all* benefit from the academic and professional development this opportunity would afford her! She has my enthusiastic and wholehearted endorsement.

Respectfully,

Anita Deeg-Carlin

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