



Higher Education Technology Services
P.O. Box 191293
San Juan, PR 00919

Please accept this letter of recommendation in support of Dr. Kristina Harb's participation in the HETS Academy this summer. This recommendation is based on Dr. Harb's qualifications, leadership strengths, and desire to pursue development opportunities.

Dr. Harb performs her duties as Program Assistant/Data Analyst for the U.S. Education Department Title V On PACE to STEM Success grant with dedication and energy. Dr. Harb is an effective administrator and respected by all faculty and staff members of the project team, as well as students who participate in the grant's activities.

Dr. Harb also advances the goals of the grant by sharing the results of the work done through various activities at professional conferences. She attended and presented her work at:

- Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators (AHSIE) 2023 Conference
- Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE) EdMedia + Innovate Learning 2022 Conference—Presented "Learning by Ear: Cases of Informal Adult Learning with Podcasting."
- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) 2022 Conference—Presented "Integrating Virtual Labs in a Blended Learning Environment."
- Hispanic Association for Colleges and Universities (HACU) 2022 Conference
- Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) 2022 Conference

Dr. Harb's passion is founded in her educational background in Biology and Counseling and her experience as a student services professional over six years' working with NJCU's first-generation STEM students. As an NJCU alumna with a degree in a STEM field, Dr. Harb personally identifies with issues facing first-generation, economically disadvantaged students as well as NJCU's mission to serve its surrounding community. She has a strong understanding of the challenges faced by urban and underrepresented STEM majors, particularly those involving course rigor, class sequencing, and time management. Dr. Harb completed the requirements for her Doctor of Education in Educational Technology Leadership degree at NJCU this Spring and will receive her doctorate on May 30. Her dissertation "Motivational Impact of Digital Badging" exemplifies her dedication and commitment to promote and facilitate the adoption of teaching and learning technologies.

For these reasons, and for her positive attitude and general support of NJCU's staff and students, I recommend *without reservation* Dr. Kristina Harb to participate in the 2023 Summer HETS Academy.

Sincerely,

John C. Grew, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Interim Director of Research, Grants & Sponsored Programs
JGrew@NJCU.edu