



PennState

Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications
The Pennsylvania State University
301 James Building
University Park, PA 16802-5024

814-865-8801
Fax: 814-863-6134

September 7, 2018

Selection Committee
Bellisario Fellows Program
Bellisario College of Communications
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA

Dear Committee Members:

It is with distinct pleasure and a deep sense of responsibility that I highly recommend Katie T. Gergel to be an inaugural selection of the Bellisario Fellows program.

Katie embodies the highest ideals of the College and the University in all that she does, from the classroom to her role as a student representative on the Alumni Society Board to her leadership in several areas of the University. She is motivated, ethical, hard-working, mature, responsible, altruistic and very talented.

And, all along the way, she does so in the spirit — in word and in deed — of the Fellows' namesake, Donald P. Bellisario.

Katie's academic confluence of political science, Spanish and Film-Video dovetails wonderfully with her career goal of telling stories — on television, via digital platforms and with a bent to the issues of the day...with an edge and, when appropriate, with a sense of humor. Her internship at Showtime last summer underscores that, as does her work with CommAgency, THON and VALLEY Life.

Katie is the epitome of the old saw, "If you want something done, give it to the busiest person you know." Katie's involvement in so many aspects of the University have exposed her to all that the Penn State community has to offer — and, also, the responsibilities and gratitude that must necessarily accompany those opportunities.

This is Katie, in a nutshell: In mid-August, a conference call of the Alumni Board's Mentoring Committee — of which she is a student member — was scheduled in the middle of an orientation program Katie was leading. Katie knew that she was the voice for her fellow students. So, she crafted time during the orientation to not only be on the call, but also provide important input on the program's direction. Her ability to juggle those commitments, and to make a valuable contribution, is exactly what Katie Gergel is all about.

She will be a splendid and memorable member of the first class of Bellisario Fellows. I am proud to offer this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Mike Poorman
Bellisario College of Communications