



# KELSEY ALTER

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May 13, 2018

California City Management Foundation

Ms. Marcia Raines

P.O. Box 221537

Newhall, CA 91322

SUBJECT: 2018 WES MCCLURE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Raines:

I am currently pursuing my Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA) at California Lutheran University, with six credits obtained to this date and a 4.0 total grade-point-average thus far. In 2017, I completed my Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a minor in Communications and accomplished a cumulative grade-point-average of 3.64. Throughout the three and a half years of my undergraduate education, I was on the Dean's List for five semesters and was also recognized for Cum Laude honors and Departmental Distinction for my efforts in my studies and continuous quest for knowledge.

I discovered my passion in local government through my internships in the Environmental Services Division and the City Manager's Office at the City of Santa Clarita. Throughout this past year and a half at the City, my duties included assessing legislation and laws, researching, grant writing, and corresponding and collaborating with City staff, residents, businesses, and other cities. I have also been a part of discussions with higher-level executives and elected officials, and initiation of a doorbell rebate program for residents. I have found my passion for administration at the local-level, thus I am aspiring to continue my professional advancement in public service. Thank you for your consideration for the 2018 Wes McClure Scholarship.

Sincerely,



Kelsey Alter

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2018 Wes McClure

Scholarship Application

13 May 2018

### **Passion for Public Service**

The moment I began my undergraduate education, I was committed to finding my purpose. To me, purpose is defined as spending your days fulfilled by a profession, academia, and life. It means you are always desiring additional knowledge, as you know that the knowledge acquired will not only benefit you, though it will also benefits others. Purpose is shown through one's enthusiasm consistently radiating to all, fostering a collaborative and positive environment wherever you go. During my time as an undergraduate student at California Lutheran University, I discovered that my purpose is serving the public, and therefore decided to pursue my graduate degree in Public Policy and Administration at California Lutheran University.

A career in local government is worthwhile, as administrators have the honor to sustain and improve the welfare of their citizens. Working for local communities, public administrators have the ability to foster positive change such as providing programs for students and providing activities for all members of the community. Public administrators also have the opportunity to perform community outreach, thus discovering new and innovative ways to enhance the community, and potentially solve some of the city's most challenging problems. The fact that I can have a positive impact on the community, in even the simplest way, makes being a public servant worthwhile. From dispersing mulch on the top of an eroded hillside in a local park with Boy Scouts, to pitching a public safety incentive program to the City Manager, the City Council,

and sheriffs, my enthusiasm for local governance has certainly flourished within the past year and a half. I am passionate about making the world a cleaner, safer, and happier place one municipality at a time.

When I conclude my master's program, I plan on advancing my career in local government. If the opportunity arises, I am certainly interested in pursuing a full-time position while completing my master's degree. Regardless of the opportunity that comes my way, I am thrilled for the forthcoming learning endeavors experienced in a municipal workplace. Due to my environmental background, specifically receiving my Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, I am interested in becoming a program coordinator or administrative analyst in a local parks or sustainability department. My ultimate ambition is to be a manager, or even a City Manager if I pursue my doctoral degree.

My experience thus far as a public administrator has been exceedingly fulfilling. As an intern for the Environmental Services Division and the City Manager's Office at the City of Santa Clarita, I learned that I have the ability to thrive in differing departments within a municipality. A select few of the various responsibilities I enjoy as a public official include collaborating with other agencies and executives, researching, grant writing, initiating programs, listening to resident's concerns, and solving problems. While being a part of the team in Environmental Services, I learned how to grant write, audit waste hauler tickets, correspond with local businesses regarding waste disposal in the community, and assist with environmentally-focused City events such as Bike to Work Day and River Rally. As an intern for the City Manager's Office, I currently perform legislative research on bills which impact the City of Santa Clarita. I have additionally advanced my abilities in this current internship through the coordination of council meeting recaps, creation of memos and newsletters, 11 years of Capital

Improvement Projects financial data manual input, council agenda item development, and holding a press conference for federal delegates' efforts regarding federal funding for the Community Development Block Grant. Another incredible experience was developing an incentive program for residents, researching more about the cities which have implemented similar programs, collaborating with the electronic doorbell company, and presenting the anticipated doorbell incentive program to the City Manager, City Council, and sheriffs. Throughout my diverse internship experiences at the City of Santa Clarita, I have acquired vital knowledge which will indeed further enrich my ambitions.

I strive for greatness and passion in all that I do; therefore, I aspire to pursue excellence in my vocation of local governance by utilizing my work experiences to expand my knowledge in the classroom. I am thrilled to continue enhancing my abilities and advance my professional development by pursuing a graduate degree in Public Policy and Administration. Learning in the public sector is continuous, thus I am thrilled to pursue my ultimate purpose as a public administrator for a local municipality.

# California Lutheran

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## UNIVERSITY

May 13, 2018

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Ms. Marcia Raines

P.O. Box 221537

Newhall, CA 91322

RE: 2018 WES MCCLURE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Raines:

Kelsey Alter was a student in my Theory of Public Administration and Research Methods classes in the Masters of Public Policy and Administration program at California Lutheran University. In the two terms in which I taught Kelsey, her passion for local government and learning showed throughout in-class discussions and academic projects. During the Fall Term, Kelsey was a student in the 4+1 program, where she could begin her graduate studies while completing her final undergraduate classes at Cal Lutheran. Only a select amount of students participate in that program, which displays Kelsey's desire to pursue a graduate education, even while completing her studies at the Bachelor-level.

Kelsey has an innate ability to listen and respond intellectually, therefore she consistently fosters collaborative discussions throughout the classroom. Her consistent enthusiasm for learning and proficiency in balancing priorities has been present throughout her time thus far in the Masters program at California Lutheran University. Kelsey's experience at the City of Santa Clarita as an intern has also encouraged her to expand her perspective and advance her academic expertise.

Kelsey has displayed academic excellence and excitement in municipal governance. At California Lutheran University, we pride ourselves on our mission to assist students in finding their purpose in life, in the workforce, and in academia. Kelsey Alter found her

# California Lutheran

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## UNIVERSITY

purpose in Public Administration and Policy; therefore, she aspires to continue to follow that path as a public administrator in local government.

She is one of the few outstanding students that I have had and I would urge you to give her application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Sabith Khan, PhD

Assistant Professor, School of Management

sabkhan@callutheran.edu



City of  
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May 10, 2018

California City Management Foundation  
P.O. Box 221537  
Newhall, CA 91322

To The Wes McClure Scholarship Committee:

It is my pleasure to recommend Kelsey Alter, who has been a graduate student intern in our organization for the past 17 months, for The Wes McClure Scholarship.

Kelsey is an intelligent, capable and self-directed young woman who I can confidently say has made a tremendous impact in our organization across multiple divisions. Her ambition to continually enhance process and ultimately the community's quality of life is evident in her positive, upbeat attitude, creativity and dedication to her assignments.

Kelsey began working for the City of Santa Clarita in January 2017 as an intern in our Environmental Services Division. During that time she worked on a variety of grant writing projects related to low impact development, green streets and environmental education. She was also instrumental in conducting an audit for the City's waste hauler contract.

With Kelsey's success in Environmental Services, she was selected for an internship opportunity in the City Manager's Office in December 2017. She immediately leveraged her internal relationships and organizational awareness to our department and hit the ground running. She has done a wonderful job in the face-paced, sometimes hectic, environment of the City Manager's Office—completing assignments ahead of time and always with a smile. She works on a variety of projects including legislation, financial tracking, grant writing, resident responses and issues related to public safety. She recently took the initiative to generate a partnership with Ring, Inc. to offer subsidized video doorbells to residents in Santa Clarita to increase neighborhood safety. Kelsey was even invited to present the program to our City Council Committee earlier this month—something that is typically entrusted to only professional staff—and did a fantastic job.

Kelsey graduated from California Lutheran University in 2017 with her bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, with a Minor in Communications, and is currently working on her master's degree in Public Policy and Administration.

The Wes McClure Scholarship would be a welcome asset to Kelsey's bright future as a leader in local government. Kelsey possesses a rare, refreshing energy and passion for her work that showcases a true commitment to improving resident's overall quality of life. It is for these reasons, without hesitation, I highly recommend Kelsey Alter for this year's Wes McClure Scholarship.

Sincerely,

Jerrid McKenna  
Assistant to the City Manager  
City of Santa Clarita

