
25th March 2019

Dear Madam/Sir,

My name is Dr. Sarah Staton and I am pleased to recommend Monica Flores for building digital platforms as I have worked with Ms. Flores in this capacity for three years through the implementation agreements that support the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) initiative at the U.S. Department of State.

During our collaboration Ms. Flores has continually distinguished herself by delivering highly personalized products that meet the ever shifting needs of the dynamic GIST initiative. For example, Ms. Flores created the database architecture and designed a redeveloped platform for 150,000+ users globally across a wide variety of roles like investor, mentors, competition applicant, judge, and administrator after the initial platform designed by another firm failed. Not only was her new platform a success, but she achieved this under a highly compressed schedule of only a few months while working with a variety of stakeholders. She also provided tremendous support after the initial launch through back-end implementation of evaluation for on-going competitions and the development of new functionalities.

Finally, Ms. Flores stands out for her superior communication skill. She was able to not only communicate needs, results, and reporting across different levels of technical understanding, such as implementation partners, project managers, developers/themers, and the State Department; but she was always gifted in managing expectations and clearly defining trade-offs.

Please feel free to reach out me with any questions and know if it were possible I would seek out the opportunity to work with Ms. Flores again.

Sincerely,

Sarah Staton, Ph.D.

Senior Advisor for GIST and Partnerships

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