

**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am honored to recommend Ivonne Rosa Madrigal Leon for admission to your graduate program. I have had the privilege of knowing Ivonne for almost three years, initially working alongside her as Library Associates, where we quickly became thought partners. Their intellect, dedication, and ability to create meaningful connections set them apart. Throughout our time working together, Ivonne demonstrated a deep commitment to education, equity, and student success - qualities that make them an ideal candidate for advanced study.

Ivonne is one of the most supportive and insightful individuals I know. They create an environment of trust and openness, ensuring that those around them feel heard and valued. As a Library Associate, Ivonne anticipated the needs of our diverse community and worked tirelessly to advance equity through programming. They developed and implemented culturally relevant initiatives across eight library branches, always bringing a thoughtful and adaptable approach. Their ability to navigate complex systems, research solutions, and create accessible resources reflects a deep-rooted commitment to learning and advocacy.

Since transitioning to their current role in education, Ivonne has continued to be a fierce advocate for students, especially those from historically marginalized backgrounds. They are a dedicated mentor who understands the systemic barriers BIPOC students face and works actively to dismantle them. Ivonne goes beyond surface-level support, ensuring students not only access resources but also develop the skills and confidence to advocate for themselves. They coordinate events, engage families on educational journeys, and empowers students to take ownership of their academic and professional futures.

A defining example of Ivonne's impact is their work with a student who had been accepted to multiple Ivy League institutions but was on the verge of declining admission due to family financial pressures. Understanding the weight of this decision, Ivonne took the time to meet with the students family, explain financial aid options, and reframe how this opportunity could benefit not just the student, but their entire community. Thanks to Ivonne's persistence and belief in their potential, the student is now attending one of the top universities in the western hemisphere - an achievement that might not have been possible without the guidance and advocacy of Ivonne Rosa Madrigal Leon.

Ivonne is a natural researcher, educator, and leader. They do not hoard knowledge; they share it freely, designing programs to teach students how to navigate academic systems and access critical resources. Their passion for education and equity makes them an ideal candidate for graduate study, and I have no doubt they will contribute meaningfully to your program.

I strongly recommend Ivonne for admission. They have the intellect, resilience, and heart needed to thrive in graduate school and beyond. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require further insight into their qualifications

With care,

*Leanna Esquivel*

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Community and Information Supervisor  
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