

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Incomplete  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202410\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MES

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Kendra Aguilar  
Recommenders Institution: Native Pathways Program  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Adjunct Faculty  
Contact Name: Maria Kaniewski  
Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 03/21/2023 11:47 PM  
Recommendation Type: General  
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000109264807

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.  
Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation  
Recommendation Owner: Shalimar Pedersen

#### Recommender Form Questions

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How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

#### Description Information

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Description: Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radius>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 03/14/2023 09:37 AM  
Modified Time: 03/21/2023 11:47 PM

Created By: Shalimar Pedersen  
Modified By: Josephine Bernier



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## NATIVE PATHWAYS PROGRAM

March 19, 2023

Kendra Aguilar, MPA-Tribal  
Adjunct Faculty, The Evergreen State College  
Native Pathways Program (NPP)  
[aguilark@evergreen.edu](mailto:aguilark@evergreen.edu)  
(425) 213-6921

Re: Maria Kaniewski Recommendation

Dear MES Admissions Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Maria Kaniewski for admission to the Master of Environmental Studies program here at Evergreen. I have had the honor of being one of Maria's faculty throughout her senior year and have witnessed the profound impact she has made on her peers as well as her contributions to creating a powerful, supportive, and effective learning community at the college. I can state with utmost confidence that I believe she is a deserving candidate that you will be proud to support as part of your phenomenal learning hub.

All our students are special people, but sometimes you are fortunate enough to come across one like Maria who puts that extra passion and dedication into their work and inspires those around them. Her fervor for learning is contagious and her unique strengths contribute greatly to the classroom and her work beyond. Some of her exemplary academic work has included a brilliantly researched and well-crafted Policy Letter and Brief on dam removal as a critical part of salmon habitat restoration, identifying an urgent Indigenous food justice issue amenable to policy intervention, resulting in a dazzling display of learning regarding the impacts of various food system actors, agendas, and activities, especially on Tribal nations and Indigenous communities. Through deeply engaging presentations, such as one in fall on the Western ideology of conservation, Maria was able to respond to critical questions regarding how our communities are mitigating the impacts of settler colonialism on Indigenous food systems, traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), and ways of being and knowing, and restoring control over food production, distribution, and access to the peoples most impacted. Maria also contributed several thought-provoking questions to a class-facilitated panel discussion, with a group of local Native food sovereignty and climate justice experts, for Evergreen's inaugural food justice symposium.

Maria embodies everything we hope to see in a critical thinker and community leader which is evidenced by her ability to demonstrate relational accountability, work collaboratively in diverse environments, center multiple perspectives, communicate creatively and effectively, and apply various modes of inquiry appropriately to practical and theoretical problems across disciplines. She is thoughtful and caring and has earned the trust and admiration of her peers. Her strong leadership abilities, phenomenal work ethic, and passion for uplifting and contributing to community are rarely seen at this level. She is a shining star with boundless potential, and it is now our task to help support her the way she supports those around her.

Over the past year Maria has embarked on a powerful journey of personal growth, community building, and social justice which has inspired those of us fortunate enough to be in community with her.

However, her journey is just beginning. She has so much to gain and contribute from the experience of studying from your brilliant faculty and alongside peers who share her desire to make a difference, and I know that whatever she gains she will use to benefit those around her. We will all be better for her having this experience.

I have a great deal of respect and admiration for Maria and am proud to be able to provide this letter of recommendation. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to speak with me in more detail about why she deserves your support and this life-transforming opportunity.

Thank you,  
Kendra  
Kendra Aguilar