


Application Related Information

Application: Application Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202410_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Amanda Broder-Hahn
Recommenders Institution: Dirty Girl Organic Landcare
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: 

Recommenders Title: Team Leader
Contact Name: Natalie Smith
Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 11/03/2022 08:10 PM
Recommendation Type: General
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000108369800

Recommender Assessment:
Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

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

Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu>

Other Information

Created Time: 11/01/2022 02:12 PM
Modified Time: 11/04/2022 09:00 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier
Modified By: Shalimar Pedersen

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to heartily recommend Natalie Smith as a student of Environmental Sciences. She has everything it takes to be a powerful advocate and ambassador for the planet and the climate: a determined, diligent work ethic, passion for the subject, an agile but patient mind for problem-solving, and voracious curiosity.

It was my privilege to be Natalie's team leader at Dirty Girl Organic Landcare.

I was hired to manage a complicated 9-acre property, and needed to assemble a team that had extensive knowledge of California native plants, local ecosystems and microclimates, as well as a working knowledge of edible landscaping and sustainable growing practices. Having Natalie on that team checked all those boxes and many, many more, and her example helped the rest of our team grow and learn to meet the daily challenges of landscaping an extensive and diverse property.

The property was large, and contained many variations in climate. The owner also had very specific ideas of how she wanted things done, which were not always compatible with reality. Natalie's expertise, practicality, and diplomacy were indispensable as we helped the client make realistic choices for her property. In particular, Natalie was able to gently steer the client away from making some expensive, unwise, unsustainable choices for landscaping a very large hillside vulnerable to wildfire and landslide. Using her extensive volunteer experience with habitat restoration, her education in native horticulture from the Theodore Payne Society, and the benefit of her own unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Natalie was able to help us work together to choose plants that would contribute to soil retention and fire prevention, while saving water, attracting pollinators, and creating habitat for native fauna.

Her capacity for thinking on her feet, solving problems as they arose, and coming up with multiple workable solutions for larger dilemmas were invaluable, and more so because she was able to present her thoughts in a way that the client found inviting instead of threatening. It was in many ways a complex and difficult property, but I looked forward to coming in to work knowing that Natalie would be there. Working with her was always an opportunity for me to learn something new, as every week she would come in having worked at a new habitat restoration site or having taken a new class, and was passionate about native plants, habitat restoration, and conservation, always eager to expand her knowledge, and deeply generous with it.

I cannot imagine a person more equipped to excel in Environmental Sciences and to use that excellence for the highest good.

Sincerely,

Amanda Broder-Hahn