

The Evergreen State College

Olympia, Washington

USA 98505



Graduate Student Selection Committee  
Master of Environmental Studies Program  
The Evergreen State College  
Olympia WA 98505

July 10, 2023

Dear Graduate Student Selection Committee:

This is a letter of recommendation for **Lindsey (Lin) Stern** to the MES Program at Evergreen. Lin was my student in Spring, 2022 in a 16-credit academic program, "Symbiosis", and she has consulted with me several times over the last year regarding her academic career.

In Symbiosis, Lin was an enthusiastic student participating actively in all activities. Her performance on exams and quizzes was very good. She carried out a field project working with one research partner to complete a video documentary about a skunk cabbage-pollinator symbiosis. The final video presentation was very good and included footage and still images collected in the field and lab along with reference to scientific literature related to their topic. The video was accompanied by an information rich narration and a written summary describing the natural history and ecology of the symbiosis.

In Symbiosis, Lin deepened her skills in interpreting primary scientific papers from a critical perspective by leading a successful discussion on the paper "Symbiotic polyDNA virus of a parasite manipulates caterpillar and plant immunity" in *PNAS*. Lin also gave a lightning talk on the Hoatzin and its microbial gut symbionts. Her presentation covered relevant material from the primary literature including symbiont transmission and benefits to host. She is very thorough in carrying out her background research, and her presentations were always very information-rich.

Lin clearly has the skills and the drive needed to complete research for a Master's degree. She is very strong in both the lab and field, and she has very good presentation skills. Lin collaborates very well with others, and all of her interactions with other students, staff, and faculty have been professional. Lin benefits from constructive critique, and I think that she would be a great fit for the MES program. Please consider her application favorably and do not hesitate to contact me if needed.

Sincerely yours,

Erik V. Thuesen, Ph.D.  
Member of the Faculty, Zoology