

Application Related Information

Application: Application Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Evan Flom
Recommenders Institution: National Young Farmers Coalition
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓
Received Date: 10/11/2023 06:57 AM
Recommendation Type: General
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000110928184

Recommenders Title: Campaign Communications Manager
Contact Name: Alyssa Brewer
Recommendation Waiver Choice:
Recommendation Status: Received
Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.
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.radius>

Other Information

Created Time: 09/26/2023 06:00 PM
Modified Time: 10/11/2023 06:57 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier
Modified By: Josephine Bernier



October 11th, 2023

Office of the Master of Environmental Studies Program
The Evergreen State College
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear Faculty and Staff of the Environmental Studies Program,

This letter is written on behalf of Alyssa Brewer to recommend her for the Master of Environmental Studies program at The Evergreen State College. I have known Alyssa (or, as I know her, Aly) since the fall of 2020 when she joined the team that I managed at a local organization called Community Action Duluth in Duluth, Minnesota.

When Aly joined me at Community Action Duluth (CAD) she couldn't have found us at a better time. We were already in the midst of a global pandemic, a national racial reckoning, and deep into several months of planning for a new food justice program in our Duluth community.

I write this letter to you now, however, as the Campaign Communications Manager for the National Young Farmers Coalition. Young Farmers is an intersectional coalition that works for justice and collective liberation of our food and farm systems while championing policies that resource connections to the land and foster our health in the face of climate crisis. With the Coalition I specifically help to resource and train farmers and ranchers across the country to share their stories with both the public and lawmakers so that we can remake the food system to be more equitable, just, and in service to both our communities and the land.

In 2020 however, when I first met Aly, I was in the middle of planning a new Community Mobile Market program at CAD. Aly joined us through her service as our Environmental & Social Justice AmeriCorps VISTA, a role she would commit to for back-to-back services over two years. All AmeriCorps VISTA members help local organizations to alleviate poverty by expanding capacity to make change, but Aly went above and beyond to help us lift a brand new program off the ground and touch lives across our communities in a significant way.

As an Environmental & Social Justice AmeriCorps VISTA member Aly played an instrumental role in not only launching our new programming, but also sustaining it. In one sense, that truly feels like a lifetime ago. To this day however, beyond both mine and Aly's time, the program continues to provide affordable and nutritious foods to communities with limited access to affordable groceries and fresh produce in Duluth. I have witnessed first-hand how Aly's on-the-ground adaptiveness and systems thinking has directly served our community.

NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS COALITION

PO BOX 1074 / HUDSON, NY 12534 / (518) 643-3564 / [YOUNGFARMERS.ORG](https://youngfarmers.org)

Aly's applied experience served CAD in numerous ways through both the Mobile Market and another program known as Duluth Stream Corps. Through Streams Corps Aly helped to offer 11-month paid employment training positions to individuals who have struggled to attain or retain employment. Participants of the program have learned employment soft skills as well as job-specific hard skills with a focus on the natural sciences. Aly effectively balanced field work with the crew and data collection and analysis in order to gauge the success of their work. Similarly, through the Mobile Market Aly not only supported our on-the-ground programming but also documented the success of the program by being the principal author of the report from our first year. Through that report Aly helped to document what was successful and what was not in that first year so that we could continue to adapt our efforts, ultimately making our work more effective.

I know now that Aly continues her good work in the state of Washington through the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Program. Through her work as an Environmental Specialist Aly helps to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for current and future generations. To me Aly demonstrates all the interdisciplinary skills necessary to achieve a degree that incorporates natural sciences, social sciences, traditional ecological knowledge, public policy, and environmental humanities. She is already an environmental leader, I have seen it first-hand. She is ready to join your program.

Thank you for your consideration,

Evan Flom

Evan Flom
Campaign Communications Manager
National Young Farmers Coalition