Application Related Information

Application: Application Verified Iteration Name: 202510\_GR\_G

Grad Program Applying To: MES Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Recommenders Title: Interim Associate Dean and

Associate Professor of

Nirupama Devaraj Economics

Recommenders Institution: Valparaiso University Contact Name: Alyssa Brewer

Waive Access to I choose to waive my right to Recommendation Waiver

Recommendation Ltrs: review this recommendation. Choice:

Recommendation Form 
Recommendation Status: Received

Submitted:

Received Date: 10/09/2023 03:29 PM Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000110496407 Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known Applicant ability as

applicant: self-directed learner:

Time since last contact with Applicant as productive

member of group:

Relationship with Applicant: Applicant most significant

strengths:

Ability to complete rigourous Responsibility/reliability:

grad program:

applicant:

Communication Skills - Oral: Communication skills -

written:

Service Ability to work independently:

Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:

Ability to handle stress: Ability to think critically:

Ability to analyze/problem Ability to think creatively:

solve:

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: 09/06/2023 08:44 AM Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 10/09/2023 03:29 PM Modified By: Josephine Bernier



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Members of the Admissions Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Ms. Alyssa (Aly) Brewer's application to the Master's program at your university. Aly graduated with a Bachelor's degree in International Economics and Cultural Affairs (IECA) in May 2020 from Valparaiso University. Aly took multiple courses with me in the undergraduate program – Economics of Health, Education and Welfare and Public Economics. She received an A grade (the highest grade) in both courses. The IECA curriculum also included introductory level courses in Micro and Macro Economic theory.

The Public Economics course introduced students to the economics of the public sector. Students were required to write a policy analysis paper that applied economic theory to contemporary policies. Aly and her co-author compared the effectiveness of a standards-based policy relative to a markets-based, permit trading policy to regulate nutrient pollution in Pennsylvania's water supplies. The paper required students to survey the literature, describe the economic model of analysis and assess the policy's impact using empirical data. Aly's paper was very well written and demonstrated an advanced understanding of economic theory.

The Health, Education and Welfare course introduced students from various majors to the application of economics to the understanding of social issues and policy. Since the course drew a diverse body of students with varying backgrounds in Economics, students were exposed to varying perspectives and viewpoints. Short writing assignments required students to analyze contemporary issues using the economics lens. Aly's paper evaluating the rollback of regulations on coal-fired power plants showed an understanding of the economics of environmental regulation, as well as the implications for the various stakeholders.

Aly is a hardworking and diligent student. As a student in multiple courses, I have found her to be through and willing to go the extra mile in being prepared for class. She is also insightful and makes thoughtful contributions to class discussions, thereby enhancing the quality of the class discussion. She has excellent communication skills and is clear and concise in laying out her arguments in written work. With her interdisciplinary background, she is able to approach a problem from varied perspectives. Aly also appeared to have good rapport with her classmates in group activities and in class interactions. I have found her to be open to reviewing her work based upon feedback from peers and professors. More recently, she has been gracious with her time in speaking to many of my students about her work and her career path.



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Aly spent time in Namibia in a Study Abroad program during her tenure at Valparaiso University. This stint was instrumental in making her aware of the burden of climate change and pollution on the world's poor. Aly is also deeply committed to social change as evidenced by her work with an environmental justice organization after her graduation from Valparaiso University. She has since been working as an Environmental Specialist in the Washington State Department of Ecology pursuing her passion for protecting the nation's waters.

I am happy to highly recommend her to the Master's program at your university. I am confident that she will take every opportunity to learn and succeed in the program. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Nirupama Devaraj

Interim Associate Dean of Graduate Education and Associate Professor of Economics Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN 46383