

#### Application Related Information


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Application: Application Incomplete  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202510\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MES

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Zoltan Grossman  
Recommenders Institution: The Evergreen State College  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: 

Recommenders Title:  
Contact Name: Reno Buchanan  
Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 08/26/2024 11:05 PM  
Recommendation Type: General  
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000119666068

Recommender Assessment:  
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.radiu>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 08/27/2024 09:57 AM  
Modified Time: 08/27/2024 09:57 AM

Created By: Shalimar Pedersen  
Modified By: Shalimar Pedersen



**ZOLTÁN GROSSMAN, Ph.D.**  
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August 27, 2024

Dear MES Admissions Committee,

I would like to offer my highest recommendation for Reno Buchanan to be admitted into your program. I have known Reno for four years, as a full-time student in the two-quarter Evergreen class “*Conceptualizing Place: Pacific Northwest Native Art and Geographies*,” which I co-taught in fall 2020 and winter 2021 with Alexander McCarty.

Reno did excellent work in exploring the historical and contemporary relationships of Pacific Northwest Native peoples to place, using art and geography in a cross-cultural comparative analysis. Our major class project was producing and publishing the 132-page online book *Removing Barriers: Restoring Salmon Watersheds through Tribal Alliances*.

Reno attended nearly all required program activities (faculty lectures, films, workshops, and guest speakers), and took good notes. He had excellent attendance and was engaged in the online program, making thoughtful observations in class discussions, and getting nearly perfect scores on quizzes. Reno participated fully in seminars on the readings, offering insights interconnecting our class themes of tribal sovereignty, cultural revitalization, and ecological restoration.

In fall quarter, students completed trainings in Adobe Illustrator, to produce graphics for a planned winter-quarter booklet on barriers to salmon migration (such as dams, dikes, and culverts). Reno submitted a map of the Middle Fork Dam on the Nooksack River in northwestern Washington state, developed in several drafts. The outstanding map depicted the terrain around the Nooksack Reservation, east of Bellingham, using a sophisticated color shaded relief system to depict elevation. Reno gave an outstanding class presentation on the graphic, and discussed the larger historical context of his case study on the two dams, as part of a student panel.

In winter quarter, Reno co-authored the chapter in the *Removing Barriers* book on “Nooksack and White: Removal to Restoration,” and produced another outstanding map covering Muckleshoot and adjacent territories. He proved himself as thoughtful, conscientious, and respectful, and a good team player in a very complex and rigorous class project.

Reno grew as a thinker and writer on the intersections of Pacific Northwest Native histories and cultures, arts, and geographies. Reno was a valued member of our online learning community, and has a promising future as a scholar, cartographer, artist, and illustrator with a commitment to revitalizing environmental and cultural well-being, and visualizing a better future.

Sincerely,

Zoltán Grossman