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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