

Application Related Information

Application: Application Not Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Lisa Fortuna	Recommenders Title:	Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Neuroscience
Recommenders Institution:	University of California, Riverside	Contact Name:	Jaime Dumoit Smith
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	03/03/2024 09:05 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000117752758	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: 02/16/2024 08:17 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 03/03/2024 09:05 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



900 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EDUCATION BUILDING, RIVERSIDE, CA 92521

March 3, 2024

Dear Admissions Committee,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Jaime Smith for the Evergreen Master of Environmental Studies program. I am the Chair and Professor of Psychiatry and Neurosciences at the University of California Riverside (UCR). I have known Jaime for over two years, and we work closely on several research projects for which I am principal investigator or co-investigator. Jaime is a Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP) who has consistently demonstrated excellence in her work, and she is one of the most skilled and competent research professionals I have ever worked with. Jaime is the Director of our research center, Community Responsive and Engaged Equity Research (CREER) in Mental Health center, at the University of California Riverside. I can attest that Jaime possesses exceptional verbal and written communication skills, as well as strong interpersonal skills. Her analytical and critical thinking abilities are unparalleled, making her an invaluable asset to our team. Jaime is a delight to work with and I highly value her as my partner in research, and her commitment and dedication.

Jaime manages several NIH-funded projects that focus on the structural determinants of mental health, particularly one we just initiated within Latino and Native American communities in San Francisco. She is a highly competent research professional who is deeply valued and trusted by our research team and the community partners. Her commitment to do this work in community-partnered research, with an emphasis on structural determinants, environmental and economic justice, showcases her dedication to addressing pressing societal issues. As a core organizer and manager of research complexities within our CREER center, Jaime has consistently demonstrated leadership and a deep understanding of the intricacies of large scientific projects and the art of community engagement.

I asked Jaime to move with me to UCR from the University of California San Francisco, due to her outstanding performance. She is involved in our scientific proposal writing, participates in publication preparation and human subject protections. Jaime's passion for creating positive change through research, coupled with her exceptional skills and dedication, make her an ideal candidate for the Master of Environmental Studies program at Evergreen. Jaime is a critical member of our most recent NIH funded project titled, Community Revitalization and Health through Latino Arts and Entrepreneurship is a comprehensive community revitalization plan led by Cultura y Arte Nativa de Las Americas (CANa) in San Francisco's Mission District in collaboration with government and community partners, that targets upstream social and policy determinants of health. Structural targets include combining an affordable housing/home

ownership initiative, urban gardening, and food distribution, harnessing economic development through transforming empty storefronts with Latino entrepreneurship, and providing culturally responsive wellness and mental healthcare. Central to this collaborative plan is a community-based participatory action research approach with local Latino laborers, domestic workers, and cultural producers, in collaboration with professional health services researchers at UCSF, whose goal together is to identify the relationship between systemic inequities, racial disparities, and physical and mental health outcomes. Jaime works extremely well with diverse members of our team and community partners, and I have heard nothing but appreciation, and respect for Jaime's work from others. She also serves as a mentor for the community-based administrator who is helping to direct the research on the community side. Everyone knows Jaime and are enthusiastic to work with her.

I have no doubt that Jaime's unique blend of expertise in clinical research and her commitment to addressing environmental and social justice issues will make her a valuable addition to your program. I wholeheartedly endorse Jaime Smith for admission to the Evergreen Master of Environmental Studies program and am confident that she will excel in all aspects of her academic and professional endeavors.

Sincerely,



Lisa. R. Fortuna, MD, MPH, M.Div.
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