

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Incomplete	Iteration Name:	202510_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Aaron Scott	Recommenders Title:	Gender Justice Staff Officer
Recommenders Institution:	The Episcopal Church	Contact Name:	Cedar Monroe
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	06/05/2024 03:35 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000118697254	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
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Other Information

Created Time:	05/16/2024 06:15 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	06/05/2024 03:35 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

June 5, 2024

To the admissions committee,

I'm writing to enthusiastically and unreservedly recommend Cedar Monroe for acceptance into the Master Program in Environmental Science at the Evergreen State College.

I worked closely with Cedar from 2015 to 2022, as their co-founder at Chaplains on the Harbor. Under Cedar's direction and vision, we partnered to develop a grassroots organization of roughly 600 poor, homeless, and incarcerated leaders devoted to "restoring the land and people together" in Grays Harbor County. From our extremely humble beginning (no staff, no site, and a \$500 budget), Cedar methodically and patiently built out a program and staff that eventually grew to include fifteen staff and trustee leaders—a supermajority of whom were directly impacted-people—with oversight of six weekly food programs, jail support and visitation, street outreach, harm reduction, popular education, community and nationwide organizing campaigns, and small-scale land restoration and reforestation projects.

The centerpiece of our work at Chaplains on the Harbor was Harbor Roots Farm: a sustainable, farm-based, supportive employment program for millennials recently released from incarceration. Cedar's leadership, research, and expertise were indispensable to the success of Harbor Roots Farm. Their dual commitment to best practices for land restoration and to equipping others for leadership meant that the entire farm team participated in research, planning, and stewarding of the land. Cedar walked with members of our farm team on their journeys from living unsheltered and struggling with substance abuse, through recovery, and toward newly discovered passions for beekeeping, food preservation, and green infrastructure design. Through all our work Cedar consistently self-educated, as well as sought out community education opportunities for themselves and the team—particularly on issues related to Indigenous sovereignty and Indigenous land management. A powerful thread and theme throughout Cedar's work was their gift for seeing, valuing, and incorporating the skills that various individuals brought to our team that had been developed out of survival necessity—whether these were highly effective rapport-building skills with our CSA customer base, or mushroom and berry foraging skills honed through years of rural homelessness.

It is thanks to Cedar that Harbor Roots Farm is now in its sixth spring of flourishing native permaculture, that members of our farm team carry new knowledge and training to all their ventures, and that I have a small patch of Ozette potatoes in my own backyard. Cedar is an ethically and intellectually rigorous scholar who is committed to work that has a positive, communal, and long-lasting impact. I'm honored to be their recommender and friend.

Sincerely,

Aaron Scott