

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Not Verified	Iteration Name:	202510_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Verónica Di Stilio	Recommenders Title:	Professor
Recommenders Institution:	University of Washington	Contact Name:	Katie Nelson
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:	11/30/2023 11:00 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000112174164	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.radiu
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Other Information

Created Time:	11/06/2023 08:28 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	11/30/2023 11:00 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Re Katie Nelson's application to graduate school

November 30th, 2023

To Whom it may concern:

I write in very strong support of Ms. Katie Nelson for graduate school. I have known the applicant since Spring quarter of 2023, as her instructor in Genetics of Plant Innovations (Biol 442), a 3-credit lecture/discussion course where I interact with students biweekly in small groups, for discussions and presentations.

Katie rose to the top 5 % of her cohort, participating actively in all in-class discussions, showing outstanding oral and written communication skills in quizzes, class participation and in her presentation. Importantly, Katie was one of the most active participants in the course, going beyond the average student engagement. Katie learned about interpreting research papers from the primary literature and presenting them in public and gained perspective about how to approach and troubleshoot problems. I believe the skills that Katie learned in my course, including contextualizing biology within a phylogenetic framework, and practicing the scientific method more broadly, will be of great value in pursuing graduate school. Specifically:

Proficient Communication Skills: Katie consistently communicated any challenges or concerns she encountered during the course. During in-class discussions, she felt comfortable talking with all students in the class and actively welcomed their contributions. It was clear that Katie participated actively out of an inherent eagerness to learn, showing initiative and curiosity for the class topics.

Coursework Proficiency: Katie successfully completed the coursework including topics in plant genetics, development, and evolution, which has equipped her with the ability to find interdisciplinary solutions to environmental challenges. She also completed a presentation going over a paper about crop domestication in maize and led an engaging discussion with her peers to uncover the broader implications of the research.

Research Analysis: Katie developed strong skills in comprehensively analyzing research papers and identifying areas for improvement, as well as being able to draw conclusions from data. This skill can be applied to future research endeavors, allowing her to critically evaluate findings.

In summary, from Katie's engagement in my class, I can tell that she is a serious, persevering and motivated student. Furthermore, through recent correspondence and by reading her statement, it is evident to me that Katie is highly motivated for graduate school and that her aspirations align nicely with a career in environmental research and education, given that she seems deeply passionate about enhancing communities by addressing environmental issues. Lastly, Katie impresses me as a respectful, compassionate, eloquent and overall, very pleasant and well-rounded person poised to have a positive impact on those around her wherever she goes.

Sincerely,

Verónica S. Di Stilio, Ph.D.

Verónica S. Di Stilio, Professor, Department of Biology, University of Washington

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