



June 14, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Bunni Peterson-Haitwas. I had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Bunni during the Winter term, 2024, when I taught Tribal Policy for the Tribal Governance program. It was during this course that I witnessed Bunni's readiness for graduate level thinking and writing. I would place Bunni in the top 3% of the course.

Two attributes stood out about Bunni's performance in the course. First, Bunni never steered away from confronting difficult topics. My course dealt with challenging issues related to what I term settler colonial violence. On each day, Bunni offered a much-needed presence, a leader for others in tackling these topics. I could always count on Bunni to critically engage others, speaking up when others were silent and posing thought-provoking ideas for others to consider. I found this refreshing. Usually, I sensed that students were hesitant to speak up, particularly when their ideas were contrary to others. Bunni leaned into these moments, exploring the complexity of the questions and content together rather than sitting silently on the sidelines. We might call the brave spaces. Bunni's bravery became evident with each reading and topic, serving as a model for others in navigating the tricky waters of tribal policy and settler violence.

Second, Bunni submitted high quality work for the course, both in writing and presenting. Several papers were required dealing with tribal policy of the students' choosing. Bunni chose interesting and relevant topics that speak to issues of the highest importance in tribal policy and law. At stake with these assignments is the students' ability to analyze existing tribal policies—where they impact, either positively or negatively, tribal communities—and propose solutions to real problems. Bunni's writing skills were among the highest in the course, standing above other students in argumentation and research. I was also impressed with Bunni's presentation style. Clearly stated and well-researched, Bunni presented solid analysis and strategies on deeply personal issues related to tribal sovereignty. Bringing together analysis with personal investment made the presentation a prime example for other students.

I am confident that Bunni has the skills to succeed in other graduate level programs. In fact, I recall raising the possibility of pursuing other graduate work. I enthusiastically recommend this student for your program. Bunni will undoubtedly represent the program and Evergreen well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Hopkins".

John P. Hopkins, Ph.D.  
Chief Diversity Officer  
Saint Martin's University