

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Incomplete  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202510\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MES

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Lindsey House  
Recommenders Institution: Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓  
Received Date: 06/30/2024 08:44 PM  
Recommendation Type: General  
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000118918572

Recommenders Title: Supervising Licensing and Recertification Specialist  
Contact Name: Ingrid Zaragoza  
Recommendation Waiver Choice:  
Recommendation Status: Received  
Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.  
Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation  
Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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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

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Description: Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radius>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 06/11/2024 07:06 PM  
Modified Time: 06/30/2024 08:44 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier  
Modified By: Josephine Bernier

June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Dear Evergreen State College Graduate Admissions Team:

I am writing to offer a glowing recommendation for Ingrid Zaragoza as a candidate for your Environmental Studies graduate program. I have supervised Ingrid in her role as Pesticide Licensing and Recertification Specialist at the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) for just over a year. In this time, I have observed Ingrid's ability to effectively analyze and problem solve, her skills in communicating in both in written and oral formats to a variety of audiences, and her passion for agricultural and environmental sciences and equity for those working in these fields. She has many assets to bring to your program, and I am confident she will excel.

In her role with WSDA, Ingrid writes and revises exams for pesticide applicator certification. She works with thirty-seven exams ranging a wide span of topics- from agricultural to ornamental and residential situations and all have federally mandated topics of competency that they need to assess. In her exam development work, I've seen Ingrid's curiosity and desire to learn as well as her prioritization of accuracy. She takes the time to ensure questions being asked on exams are clear and accurate. She looks to multiple credible sources to verify that she has all the information needed and that the exam question is correct and incontestable. She is organized and thoughtful in her research and has been an invaluable asset to our team. She is also the program's first bilingual specialist and leads Spanish exam work, which has a unique set of challenges that she has met head-on.

Ingrid has continually impressed in her ability to professionally and effectively collaborate. Her position requires her to work with our partner pesticide safety educators at Washington State University, other programs within WSDA, as well as industry groups and other subject matter experts. Ingrid welcomes input and ideas from others and brings her own fresh perspective to challenges. She is quick to step up and problem solve and quickly pivots when adjustments are needed.

Ingrid is driven to use her knowledge in the agricultural and environmental sciences to increase equity for agricultural workers. She is our program's first bilingual specialist and leads Spanish exam work. Upon joining WSDA, Ingrid quickly noticed areas where equity for Spanish testers could be improved. She has spearheaded creation of a strong process for ensuring that Spanish exams and study materials are equitable for our Spanish speaking communities. She worked with our collaborators at Oregon State University and Washington State University on a pilot project to assess the current status of Spanish exams and areas we could improve. In her time with WSDA, Ingrid has led our agency in making clear advancements towards a more fair certification process for those testers.

I cannot say enough good things about Ingrid. While I believe she will excel at anything she puts her mind to, she is especially qualified and capable to succeed as a graduate student in your program. If you have any further questions about her experience or qualifications, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsey House". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping horizontal line above the first name.

Lindsey House

Lead Licensing and Recertification Specialist

Washington State Department of Agriculture

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