

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete Iteration Name: 202610_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To: MES Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Daniel Meyer Recommenders Title: Former Tribal Council Member/CIO (Retired)
Recommenders Institution: Cowlitz Indian Tribe Contact Name: Rita Asgeirsson
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: 03/14/2025 05:57 PM Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type: General Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000121910414 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>

Other Information

Created Time: 03/09/2025 03:31 PM Created By: Josephine Bernier
Modified Time: 03/14/2025 05:57 PM Modified By: Josephine Bernier

March 14, 2025

To whom it may concern,

It's my pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation for Rita Asgeirsson as she seeks entrance to Evergreen State College as a student in the Master of Environmental Studies program. I first met Rita several years ago when she was hired as Cowlitz Tribal Cultural Director. At the time, I was working for the tribe as Chief Information Officer. Our time with the tribe overlapped about 16 months. We were basically peers, but I spent time working with her on tribal budgets and specific projects. I can attest that Rita showed excellent communication skills and fully grasped all the areas that she was responsible for. She has the ability to not only provide a high level of management but works well with the employees and her staff.

Rita has a very strong grasp of tribal roles and the organization based on her experiences with her tribe. I felt she had excellent written and verbal skills based on scopes of work, emails and memos, policies, and other documents she produced. We spent several days a month together in staff meetings with other directors and managers and she always presented herself well. Some of the projects I worked with her on included purchasing and installing a database system to track all cultural locations and related information for the tribe, creating a proposal for a GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) unit and a plan to use it. There were a few other systems that she was planning on implementing in her department and for the tribe but I retired before their implementation. These projects were progressive and innovative. She explained the goals for her department and the tribe clearly and made the most of her time to gain technical knowledge and provide quality service to meet the needs of her department and its clients. In addition, she has strong work ethic as many times I would drive by her office and she would still be working late into the evening. As a former tribal council member and the former treasurer of the tribe, she was always picking my brain for more specific knowledge of our tribe, our history, our policies and procedures and finances. She then used that knowledge to lead her group and create concepts to improve and benefit not only her department but the tribe as a whole. I believe her ability to interpret and analyze data is very good and I always appreciated her ability to reason and debate our tribal similarities and differences.

I find her research synopsis to be very interesting and we've had several conversations regarding my role in setting up the fuel compact with the Cowlitz Tribe and other tax compacts and documents between the tribe and the state of Washington. We have recently discussed relating our tribal experience here in WA state and analyze the similarities and differences. Her knowledge of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other laws regarding Alaskan tribal sovereignty is impressive.

In closing, I'd like to restate my strong support for Rita's application to Evergreen and especially the area she has chosen to study. I'm confident that she will surpass your expectations as she is driven, self-confident, proactive, and smart, and I know she will find success. Please feel free to contact me at (360) 901-8328 or dan@meyerbiz.com with any other questions. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dan

Daniel J. Meyer
Former Tribal Council Member/Treasurer and
Retired CIO of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe
Vancouver, WA