

#### Application Related Information

---

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

#### Recommendation Information

---

Recommended By:	James Gordon	Recommenders Title:	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
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:	03/13/2025 04:04 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000121872907	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:	<a href="https://evergreenstatecollege.radius">https://evergreenstatecollege.radius</a>
--------------	-----------	---

#### Other Information

---

Created Time:	03/06/2025 05:34 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	03/13/2025 04:04 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

James Gordon  
1209 Bloyd St  
Kelso, WA 98626

13 March 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is James Gordon, and I have been the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) in the Cultural Resources Department of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe since January 2024. Prior to that, I was the Cultural Resources Technician for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe since 2007. I am writing this letter to recommend Rita Asgeirsson for the Master of Environmental Science Program at Evergreen State University.

Rita was the Cultural Resources Director for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe (and my immediate supervisor) from the middle of June 2021 until early December 2023. I learned a great deal from her during this time, and she enlightened me on many topics such as Tribal sovereignty and energy policies. Her knowledge of various topics having to do with the intersections of Tribal policies (from a Native professional perspective) allowed me to glean further insight as to the field that I have been working in for over a decade. During staff meetings, she inquired about topics I had not heard about (which prompted me to learn all I could), and these questions were followed up with bullet-point lists via e-mail (which was greatly appreciated). This made my objectives easy to track and understand.

As projects progressed over time, her critical reasoning was on display. I was impressed with her attention to minute details which I had not considered, from angles which I quickly educated myself upon. Her quantitative analysis of incoming raw data was swift and acute, which aided in real-time discussions with project proponents along with state and federal agencies. As a result, our department often relied on her excellent data interpretation skills.

During our time together, Rita was always very approachable, even when dealing with an overwhelming amount of work on her agenda, and her eloquence inspired me to continuously work on my approach to work. This has left an indelible and positive mark on my career, especially in meetings in which I partake in my current role.

I strongly recommend Rita Asgeirsson for the Master of Environmental Science Program at Evergreen State College. She is an excellent candidate for this program.

Sincerely,

James Gordon  
[jhg332@gmail.com](mailto:jhg332@gmail.com)