

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Incomplete  
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202610\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MES

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Terri Plake  
Recommenders Institution: Northwest Indian College  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Teacher  
Contact Name: Rita Asgeirsson  
Recommendation Waiver Choice:  
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 03/10/2025 03:57 PM  
Recommendation Type: General  
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000121872922

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.radiu>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 03/06/2025 05:38 PM  
Modified Time: 03/10/2025 03:57 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier  
Modified By: Josephine Bernier



# NORTHWEST INDIAN COLLEGE

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Graduate School Admissions  
The Evergreen State College  
Olympia, WA

March 10, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Rita Asgeirsson for admission to the Graduate School in Environmental Studies at The Evergreen State College. I am a science faculty member at Northwest Indian College and first met Rita in about 2010 when she was a student in my Introductory Geology class. To this day, her work in that class still stands as the some of the most thorough and thoughtful assignments I have received. And I have taught college level science for over 35 years.

When Rita told me that she was applying to graduate school at The Evergreen College I thought this would be a perfect fit for her. She has a plethora of experience in working with Tribes on many fronts, including Treaty Rights, Fishing Rights, and Sovereignty. Her resume outlines her many outstanding accomplishments over the years. I am thrilled that she is ready to complete her Master's degree.

While at Northwest Indian College, she helped organize and carry out our annual Vine Deloria Indigenous Symposium. Back then we hosted Native Scholars from all over to discuss Vine's work in context of historical and current issues in the courts, etc. She assisted in pulling together outstanding members to hold panel discussions to talk about Boldt Decision, fishing rights, environmental justice in Indian Country as examples. She did a great job paying attention to many details, pulling together organized and thoughtful sessions to make these events successful. I attended every year and I am eternally grateful for the important learning I was able to accomplish hearing the important words directly from the mouths of so many important leaders in Indian Country. Many of whom have passed on to the Spirit World.

Rita has excellent written communication skills. I have read many examples of her work over the years. She has strong oral communication and negotiation skills in working with various agencies at the table. She is articulate and well-prepared in her presentations. Her work demonstrates her abilities as a well-disciplined industrious researcher to make sure she has the important data and facts lined up to support her cases. Grant writing especially requires perseverance as well as initiative to complete applications with succinct details and to be submitted on time.

Rita is an exceptional candidate for your graduate program. She would benefit greatly from all aspects in your interdisciplinary approach to incorporate public policy, social and natural sciences, environmental science and justice, traditional ecological knowledge and more to build well-rounded graduates who will make a difference for their people and the complicated current world we are presently facing. I believe that Rita has the intellectual creativity and motivation to thrive and be an asset in your distinctive program.

If I can answer any questions or be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
Sincerely,

*Terri Plake*

Terri Plake  
Science Faculty  
Northwest Indian College  
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Bellingham, WA 98226

Personal Cell: 360 393-0289