Other Information

**Application Not Verified** 202610\_GR\_G Application: Iteration Name: Grad Program Applying To: MES Program Name: MES Recommendation Information Recommended By: Recommenders Title: Program and Volunteer Clarissa Felling Director Recommenders Institution: Puget Sound Estuarium Contact Name: Tiara Neas-Gass Recommendation Waiver Waive Access to I choose to waive my right to Recommendation Ltrs: review this recommendation. Choice: Recommendation Form Recommendation Status: Received Submitted: Received Date: 12/26/2024 04:39 PM Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant. Recommendation Type: General Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000121492119 Josephine Bernier Recommendation Owner: Recommender Form Questions How long have you known Applicant ability as applicant: self-directed learner: Time since last contact with Applicant as productive applicant: member of group: Relationship with Applicant: Applicant most significant strengths: Ability to complete rigourous Responsibility/reliability: grad program: Communication Skills - Oral: Communication skills written: Service Ability to work independently: Orientation-sensitivity/empathy: Ability to handle stress: Ability to think critically: Ability to analyze/problem Ability to think creatively: solve: Openness to feedback: Potential for leadership: Personal/professional Ability to work in a team: reflection: **Description Information** Description: Form URL: https://evergreenstatecollege.radius

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To Whom It May Concern,

I highly recommend Tiara Neas-Gass for the Evergreen State College Master's in Environmental Science program. I am the Program and Volunteer Director for the Puget Sound Estuarium and I got to know Tiara over the last 2.5 years as she advanced from volunteer to contract educator and now staff.

We run a program called Tiny Tides Storytime where kids get to hear a story and then interact with the animals in our tanks. Tiara started off volunteering as an assistant to the program lead, but it was clear she was more than capable of running the program herself. Tiara is always looking for new challenges to tackle. She has now been running them for over a year and surveys come back very positive.

Tiny Tides Storytime is where kids have some of their first experiences interacting with marine life and they often have lots of questions. Tiara's understanding of ecosystems shows through as she is able to interpret complex topics and make them understandable for kids. When she doesn't know the answer she is honest and researches the correct answer so she'll know for the next time.

Tiara's creativity and problem solving skills are always being tested during this program. While trying to keep kids entertained she develops new crafts for kids to do. She has great observation skills and comes up with new formats for the program to better suit the younger audience. She takes diligent notes to not miss meeting discussions and to relay important information about the program to me for grant reports.

The way she takes on extra responsibilities and is always looking for ways to improve the program and her own skills is why she was able to go from just a volunteer to one of the few paid staff with us. My trust in her has never wavered as she completes tasks on time, asks for constructive criticism, and puts her best into everything she does.

Tiara would excel as a Master's student in the Environmental Science program. If you have any questions or would like to discuss more please feel free to contact me at (253)-740-3497 or <a href="mailto:clarissa@pugetsoundestuarium.org">clarissa@pugetsoundestuarium.org</a>.

Sincerely, Clarissa Felling Program and Volunteer Director Puget Sound Estuarium