
Application Related Information

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

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Rachael Blansett	Recommenders Title:	DEIJ Director
Recommenders Institution:	Oyster River Cooperative School District	Contact Name:	Anushka Saraswat
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:	01/08/2025 12:03 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000121483262	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:	12/22/2024 08:51 AM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	01/08/2025 12:03 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rachael Blansett, M. Ed., DEIJ Director
Oyster River Cooperative School District
36 Coe Dr. Durham, NH 03833
P: (603) 389-3291
rachaelblansett@gmail.com

January 8, 2024

To whom it may concern,

It gives me great pleasure to be writing in support of Anushka Saraswat's application for the Environmental Science Master's program at Evergreen State College. My name is Rachael Blansett and I currently serve as the inaugural Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Director for Oyster River Cooperative School District in Durham, New Hampshire. Through my year-long Diversity and Inclusion fellowship at Sterling College, I had the fortunate opportunity to support Anushka as a leader of the Roots Group, supervise her as one of the Diversity and Inclusion student workers, and have her as a student in my *Student Activism in Higher Education* course.

Anushka's greatest strengths lie within her empathetic nature, introspection, her love of environmental justice and sustainability, and how she advocates for the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. This is shown by her deep commitment to integrating environmental sustainability with social justice issues. She consistently demonstrates a keen awareness of how environmental degradation disproportionately impacts low-income, Indigenous, and communities of color. Through her academic work and extracurricular involvement, Anushka has cultivated a profound understanding of how policies and practices around environmental protection can and must be inclusive of those who have historically been left out of the conversation.

Furthermore, through her role as a Diversity and Inclusion student worker, Anushka engaged in research and collaborative efforts to aid in the design and implementation of various educational workshops, focusing on topics of: disability, neurodiversity, race and racism, classism, and LGBTQ+ inclusion. Additionally, she served as one of my collaborators to plan and lead a joint-college BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) retreat for both Sterling College and College of the Atlantic students. Through this opportunity, Anushka highlighted her exceptional skills in community-building, discussion facilitation, and fostering a safe, inclusive space for open dialogue on sensitive topics. Her ability to create an environment where all voices could be heard and respected demonstrated her maturity, leadership, and commitment to promoting equity in every aspect of her work.

However, Anushka's investment and knowledge of environmental justice goes beyond the intellectual and academic spheres to a place more human and rooted in lived experience. As an international woman of Color, Anushka deeply understands the significance of viewing environmental issues through an intersectional and global lens. She brings an invaluable perspective on how colonialism, global capitalism, and social inequalities intersect with ecological degradation and how important it is to actively challenge ecocide and the destruction of our ecosystems on a worldwide scale. Whether addressing the importance of decolonizing environmental practices or advocating for the rights of marginalized communities in policy reform, Anushka's approach is both deeply thoughtful and action-oriented.

By and large, I enthusiastically recommend Anushka to be selected for the Environmental Science Master's program at Evergreen State College. I believe Anushka holds all the skills, character, and passion to navigate this field with the utmost integrity and engagement. I truly believe Anushka displays exceptional fortitude and a commitment to life-long learning which will only allow her to excel

within this program. I am confident that she has the strengths and skills to go above and beyond the expectations to learn and engage in the curriculum while also offering critical insight and knowledge to the field. I hope you will take this opportunity to admit Anushka as a student within your program as I truly believe she is an exceptional student and professional. I am happy to be reached for follow up to expand upon the information I have written within this letter.

Sincerely,

Rachael Blansett

Rachael Blansett, M. Ed.