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August 5, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

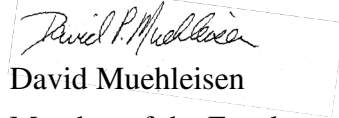
Ms. Louise Batten has applied for admission to graduate school in the Masters in Teaching Program (MIT) at the Evergreen State College for the Fall of 2021. Louise has asked if I would write a letter of recommendation on her behalf. This letter is an easy task because she is such an outstanding student and an exceptional person. I have worked with Louise during the 2019 Practice of Organic Farming Program (POF) (Spring and Summer). Louise joined POF with a clear focus on what she wanted to accomplish, and she stayed true to that focus through her time in the program. During the POF program, Louise's focus was on learning and practicing teaching basic farming skills. She did this by helping different workgroups how best to complete various tasks. She was knowledgeable about basic gardening skills, and she used that knowledge to help fellow students complete assigned field tasks. She is adept at teaching but initially challenging because fellow students saw her as an equal, not looking for instruction. Nevertheless, she was persistent, and with good communication skills and helpful information, she won many students' over.

Louise did well in both the classroom and on the farm. In the classroom, Louise demonstrated a good understanding of many of the foundational scientific underpinnings that guide the many organic farming practices we use and teach at the Evergreen Organic Farm. Her greatest strength is that if she does not understand something, she asks questions until things click. She has great determination and seems to enjoy learning. She is adept at teaching but initially challenging because fellow students saw her as an equal, not someone to look to for instruction. To her credit, she was persistent and had good instruction, and delivery won many of the students. She is a dedicated student who prioritizes getting her work completed as detailed as possible. She always comes to class prepared to get as much as possible out of each workshop, lecture, field trip, or any program event. Louise's level of engagement and dedication to her learning is what every instructor wants for every student they teach. She did well on all her exams and demonstrated a good command of the material and concepts presented in the program.

On the farm, we do most of the farm work in teams, and Louise proved to be both an excellent team member; and, when called upon, a great team leader. In addition, on her own time, Louise would weed areas and help fellow students whenever needed.

Louise is a kind and very focused student. She is very determined and does not let setbacks stop her from achieving the goals she sets for herself. She seems to live to help others. I believe she will make a good addition to the MIT program. I recommend her and believe she will be a very good representative of the graduate program. If you have any questions about Louise's qualifications as a student or person, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David P. Muehleisen", enclosed within a rectangular box.

David Muehleisen

Member of the Faculty

Evergreen State College

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