

November 28, 2022

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Dalton Elliott for admission to the Evergreen State College Masters in Teaching program. My name is Haley Paine and I am a member of the childcare team at the South Sound YMCA. Dalton works as a site director for our Y Care program. During their time here I've been greatly impressed by their ability to create meaningful connections with the children, their parents, and other staff. Daltons commitment to representing our core values of caring, respect, honesty, and responsibility shine through at every opportunity. Working with children can be full of many surprises, but Dalton has consistently demonstrated their ability to work well under pressure.

Many of our Y Care participants are dealing with adverse circumstances including but not limited to, being in foster care or experiencing financial hardship. We also work with a lot of children who are on the spectrum and have other behavioral issues. Dalton understands the importance of patience and understanding and always meets these children at their level. Finding effective and unique ways to deescalate when emotions are high and work with the children to problem solve.

Dalton is what we refer to as "float staff". Most of our staff are assigned to a specific location, but our float staff work at many different schools located in different districts. I mention this because the position is a feat in itself. You have to be able to adapt and quick. The kids are different, parents are different, school is different, the problems are different and so the solutions need to be too. Dalton's ability to thrive in new environments and high pressure situations is remarkable.

In my time working with Dalton, they have always gone above and beyond. They are very ambitious and always bring a thoughtful and intelligent perspective. Dalton has a passion for youth and their bright spirit is contagious. Their ability to maintain a positive outlook and build up those around them is truly inspiring. Dalton will make a wonderful teacher and be an excellent addition to this program.

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