

Office of Graduate School Admission
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia WA 98505

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my great pleasure to recommend Bret Manzel for the Masters in Teaching program at Evergreen State College. I believe she would be a remarkable addition to your program. I came to know Bret in 2018, via her participation in Planned Parenthood's Teen Council program in Pierce County. Teen Council is Planned Parenthood's youth leadership peer education program. Teen Council members are trained in evidenced-based, inclusive sexuality education curricula, and teach these curricula in local schools. Additionally, Teen Council members are connected to opportunities for advocacy, community outreach, and relationship building. As the facilitator for the Pierce County Teen Council, the qualities I hoped for in a Teen Council member included: an inquisitive nature, a passion for equity, reliability, and excellent communication skills. Bret embodied all of these characteristics and more.

Teen Council involved a regular weekly commitment, as well as an hours requirement teaching in schools around Pierce County. Bret eagerly signed up for opportunities to teach, including in schools that were farther away, or different than the environment she was used to. She was committed to showing up where folks needed sexuality education the most. I was continually impressed by Bret's quiet, steadfast nature- her ability to observe dynamics at play in the classroom and respond to them in ways that were empathetic and effective. Particularly, I recall Bret's strength in redirecting questions that were off-topic or off-color in a way that affirmed the asker's humanity and tied back into the content we were discussing: be it STI's, birth control methods, or health relationships. I am so delighted to see the path Bret has taken, and believe that she will be an asset to the teaching profession. She is one of the most inquisitive and patient Teen Council members I encountered in my time with Planned Parenthood. I highly recommend her to the Masters in Teaching program.

Sincerely,
Dawn Thomas