

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202330_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MIT	Program Name:	MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Bianca Perla	Recommenders Title:	
Recommenders Institution:	Vashon Nature Center	Contact Name:	Valeria Martínez Espinoza
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✗	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	08/12/2022 10:59 AM	Recommender Assessment:	
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000107772859	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
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Other Information

Created Time:	07/26/2022 12:00 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	08/12/2022 11:16 AM	Modified By:	Shalimar Pedersen

Vashon Nature Center

8/11/2022

Evergreen's Office of Admissions
L1200 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, Washington 98505

Dear Admission Committee,

I highly recommend Valeria Martinez Espinoza for admission to the Evergreen College teaching program. Vale has been working with Vashon Nature Center for the past 3 years and she has volunteered for several years prior. She is an incredible human being-- very relatable, professional in her work, and a compassionate team player. All of us at the nature center have been blessed with her wisdom, input, hard work and positive energy.

Ms. Martinez was hired as a Community Education Specialist to help the VNC Education programs manager teach field science and nature-based project learning units at Vashon Island School District for grades K-12. Her dual emphasis is to teach all students and to ensure that we support Latinx students and families in participating in nature center programs.

Vale has done an amazing job of being a heartfelt mentor to all students and an understanding contact for Latinx students and families. As a scientist and naturalist, she is a tremendous role model just by being in the classroom. She is creative and compassionate and energized about her work. She always brings her best to her teaching. For example, she went above and beyond working in the classroom to make connections with families and students by joining the Latin clubs at the school and participating in a monthly radio broadcast on nature on the local radio show Mi Gente Latina. Vale is a systems thinker. She understands the facets of student lives that matter beyond standard education.

Vale has worked with us to both create and offer community-science based outdoor programs. During the pandemic, we responded to parent and teacher calls for help in getting kids off the computer and outside by designing a program called [Everyone Counts](#) which combines mindfulness, nature observation and community science thru visiting a biodiversity plot outside. Vale was a crucial team player in creating this course which we did with hardly any budget or time! She has also helped us create a science-art-nature summer camp for 6-10 year olds called Natural Wonder and an internship program for high school students in marine science, science communication, and watershed restoration this summer.

Vale is incredible with all ages. Younger kids relate to her unique mix of calm and playful demeanor and older youth look up to her as a mentor. Students bond with her naturally.

The world will benefit greatly as Vale hones her talents towards classroom teaching. You can't go wrong. I really have no reservations or cautions with Vale. You will love her!

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Bianca Perla, PhD, Director