

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MIT

Iteration Name: 202430\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MIT

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Grace Huerta  
Recommenders Institution: Evergreen State College  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Professor Grace Huerta  
Contact Name: Vanessa Cox  
Recommendation Waiver Choice:  
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 08/20/2023 08:05 PM  
Recommendation Type: General  
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000110291191

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.  
Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation  
Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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How long have you known applicant:  
Time since last contact with applicant:  
Relationship with Applicant:  
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:  
Communication Skills - Oral:  
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:  
Ability to handle stress:  
Ability to analyze/problem solve:  
Openness to feedback:  
Ability to work in a team:

Applicant ability as self-directed learner:  
Applicant as productive member of group:  
Applicant most significant strengths:  
Responsibility/reliability:  
Communication skills - written:  
Ability to work independently:  
Ability to think critically:  
Ability to think creatively:  
Potential for leadership:  
Personal/professional reflection:

#### Description Information

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Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu>

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 07/30/2023 12:01 PM  
Modified Time: 08/20/2023 08:05 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier  
Modified By: Josephine Bernier



Aug. 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to recommend Vanessa Cox for admittance to TESC's Master's in Teaching program. Vanessa was a highly motivated student in our "Teaching English Language Learners--Culture, Theory and Methods" undergraduate program in Fall-Winter 2022-23. She established an effective understanding of our multilingual (ML) interdisciplinary content through the completion of program readings, dialectical journals, case study research, teaching demos, seminar discussions and a ML4th grade elementary practicum.

Vanessa positively contributed to our program in ways that reflected her engagement with ML lesson planning design and demonstrations, the WIDA standards and ML assessment strategies. Vanessa demonstrated her understanding of ML pedagogy through the analysis of the literature, the application of ML content area lesson planning and sheltered instructional strategies. Vanessa's teaching team created a lesson titled "Inferences and Literature Based on *Esperanza Rising*" for 4th grade intermediate students with a focus on academic vocabulary. This lesson was a strong demonstration of Vanessa's goal of advancing ML language learning and content area understanding. The team used engaging visual representations, anchor charts, vocabulary strategies and small group activities. Vanessa's team modeled a backward design lesson framework which established the team's focus on content objectives, WIDA standard 1 (social) and 2 (ELA), and formative assessment to show how students met the learning goal with a focus on academic language and vocabulary development for level 1 MLs.

In the winter quarter, Vanessa and a partner effectively completed a final "Ideal ML Program: Inclusive, Interactive and Important" curriculum project and presentation. This a 2nd-4th grade, ML beginner and intermediate dual language (Spanish) interdisciplinary project consisted of five stages that included a philosophy and pedagogy statement, a curriculum and assessment plan, and three lesson plans that included a social-emotional focus, as well as mathematics and earth science content areas. For example, one lesson focused on scientific methods such as observations and academic language in English and Spanish (i.e. seasonal changes, photosynthesis, tree and leaves). Vanessa focused on developing English language proficiency while implementing a WIDA Language for Science K-3 Standard 4 (explain/interpretative) while lowering students' affective filter. Vanessa provided students an opportunity to share their prior knowledge were introduced to essential questions why a leaf changes in color, using pre-prepared images, outdoor observations, writing and drawing activities and prompts for discussion (comprehensible output) and assessment. This was an outstanding undergraduate ML lesson.

Vanessa also completed an elementary ML tutoring practicum in a local 4th grade classroom. She worked one-on-one with ML students while positively collaborating with her mentor teacher. Vanessa connected well with the students she tutored, as they worked on English Language Development skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking). Another strength of Vanessa's was her ability to integrate students' heritage language when translating key academic language into English, thus supporting and sustaining students' cultural affirmation and prior knowledge.

In sum, Vanessa's program work and effective ML field collaborations, establish she is a good candidate for the MiT program.

Sincerely,

*Grace C. Huerta*

Grace C. Huerta, Ph.D.  
Educational Policy, English Language Arts, ML Education