

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MIT

Iteration Name: 202430_GR_G
Program Name: MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Rachel Kirk
Recommenders Institution: Central Washington University

Recommenders Title: Interim Associate Dean

Contact Name: Samuel Enriquez

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Waiver Choice:

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 08/29/2023 09:56 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000110394785

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.radius>

Other Information

Created Time: 08/23/2023 07:39 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 08/29/2023 09:56 AM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



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August 21, 2023

The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear Members of the Search Committee:

It is my absolute pleasure to write this letter of endorsement for **Samuel Enriquez**, an applicant for the **Master in Teaching** program. I first met Sam when he began our MFA in our Studio Art program at Central Washington University two years ago. I have worked with him in a variety of capacities; Sam has been my Graduate Teaching Assistant, my student, and my colleague, each of which I will describe in this letter.

Sam was my *Introduction to Drawing* Graduate Teaching Assistant in Fall, 2021. He was an exceptional help in every way. I was continually impressed by his eagerness to stay after class to help students, or to voluntarily and cheerfully sweep the studio to maintain cleanliness of the space. His warmth and openness, combined with incredible artistic skill, meant that oftentimes my students would ask him for help and feedback on their drawings instead of me -- and it was a joy to watch him assume that role. **His interpersonal skills are exceptional.**

As a graduate student, Sam was intensely devoted to his studio art practice, both in creating new works and researching art history and other relevant topics. He is eager to learn and dig deep into research projects, and his contributions to class discussions were always thoughtful. He's not afraid to speak his mind, but always conducts himself with professionalism and grace. He is a knowledge-seeker, and truly one of the most observant students I've ever had. His inquisitive nature applies to everything he does, as he's always seeking new intellectual challenges. I'm sure he would be just as committed to his studies in your Master in Teaching program. **I can attest to his ability to successfully pursue academic work and his ability to write professionally and effectively.**

I currently serve as the Interim Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Humanities at CWU, but my regular role is as the Foundations Coordinator for the CWU Department of Art + Design. I oversee instruction of the foundation-level art courses, which are often taught by Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs). We require our GTAs to take a course called *Pedagogy of Studio Art and Design Foundations* to help them balance their teaching with their graduate studies. As the instructor of that class, I strive to teach our graduate students how to be effective teachers. Sam is such a naturally gifted teacher that I think he ended up teaching me more in that class than I taught him! Our pedagogy-based readings and discussions produced some enlightening and thoughtful exchanges. Sam was such a positive influence in that class, and I am grateful for his calm and balanced outlook on the joys and struggles of teaching.

Department of Art + Design

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After his time in our graduate program, Sam was hired as an adjunct, or *Non-Tenure Track*, instructor for our department. He needed no guidance; I fully entrusted him to teach his classes as a capable and independent instructor. The drawing studio is a shared space that has many students and multiple instructors, and Sam always left the studio cleaner than he found it. He is conscientious, polite, and professional in every way.

I see in your mission statement that "Evergreen's Master in Teaching **is for aspiring teachers seeking to center social justice and equity in their instruction.**" Sam has been -- and will continue to be -- a stalwart supporter of those students who come from groups that may have been historically disadvantaged. BIPOC students, LGBTQ+ students, students with disabilities -- they all are empowered and have a voice in Sam's classes. He has already ***built classrooms of joy and justice.*** Many of the students he has taught here at CWU are first-generation college students, and it's great to see how they thrive with such positive freshman-year experiences as they have in Sam's class.

Sam treats all of his students with dignity and respect. There's a natural ease with which he conducts his classes, and during his time at CWU, he made the learning process exciting for our students. He is a patient, empathetic, kind, and fun instructor. Sam makes every possible effort to ensure student success, engaging with them through a variety of access points. He encourages group interaction and has an enviable ability to get even the quietest students to feel comfortable participating.

I've written a lot of recommendation letters over the years, but rarely with as much enthusiasm as I write this one. Sam is a joy to work with; he is personable and honest with a giving spirit. While I haven't observed Sam working with school-aged children, I honestly don't have any reservations about him being able to do so successfully. On a personal note, I come from a family of K-12 educators. I know the rewards and challenges of a career in teaching, and I know that Sam is well-suited to pursue this career path.

I recommend Samuel Enriquez for your program with zero reservations. I will be happy to speak more to Sam's strengths by phone or email. Feel free to contact me at the number or address below.

Sincerely,

Rachel Kirk

Interim Associate Dean, CWU College of Arts and Humanities

Professor of Art & Art Foundations Coordinator, CWU Department of Art + Design

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