

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MIT

Iteration Name: 202430_GR_G
Program Name: MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Michael Walden
Recommenders Institution: Congregation Shir Hadash
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Rabbi
Contact Name: Jacob Strain
Recommendation Waiver Choice:
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 11/01/2023 07:43 PM
Recommendation Type: General
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000111371197

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation
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>

Other Information

Created Time: 10/10/2023 09:44 PM
Modified Time: 11/01/2023 07:43 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier
Modified By: Josephine Bernier



Congregation Shir Hadash

11/1/23

Evergreen State College

Subject: Strong Recommendation for Jacob Strain

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to offer my wholehearted recommendation for Jacob Strain, a dear friend and collaborator of fifteen years, as he applies to Evergreen's Master in Teaching program to pursue a career in teaching. I have had the privilege of witnessing Jacob's evolution from a diligent contributor at the Grinnell City Artist Residency in Grinnell, Iowa, to a devoted father and unwavering supporter of educational endeavors that stir curiosity and foster a love for learning.

In 2014, I brought Jacob into a plan I had built, based on my own career at the time in science education. With a large grant from the Iowa Arts Council, we took over an artist residency, Grinnell City, in Grinnell Iowa for the summer to focus on the role of art in science education. Jacob became a key part of this initiative, working with artists and then taking their work with us to hospitals and science museums, as we built microscopes for smartphones, basic cryptography machines, and even staged a musical about science education. His deftness in managing interpersonal dynamics created an environment of positivity and productivity, even under the most pressing deadlines we had.

One of the most memorable episodes from this was Jacob's incredible educational work in our program where children constructed microscopes for their parent's smartphones. His ability to offer guidance while supporting their independent exploration was a testament to his natural teaching ability and sensitive approach to nurturing curiosity in our young participants.

Over the years, Jacob's brilliance has been channeled into a deep empathy and a remarkable ability to listen and support others that is truly unparalleled. His experience as a supportive partner and nurturing father further underscore his capacity to balance demands with grace and steadfast commitment.

Jacob embodies a constellation of qualities that make him an asset in any educational setting—thoughtfulness, brilliance, patience, and an unwavering curiosity that fuels his continual exploration of the world. He aspires to be the beacon of support and inspiration that he was fortunate to receive from his remarkable teachers, aiming to impart not just knowledge but also care and understanding to shape resilient, compassionate individuals.

Below, please find a photograph that beautifully captures a moment from our residency. I think it speaks for itself, but it offers a glimpse into Jacob's engagement with the young learners and his profound impact on their educational journey.

In Jacob, you will find an individual who brings a wealth of life experience, a robust dedication to education, and a heart brimming with empathy and kindness. I am confident that his presence at

TAX ID #94-2662529

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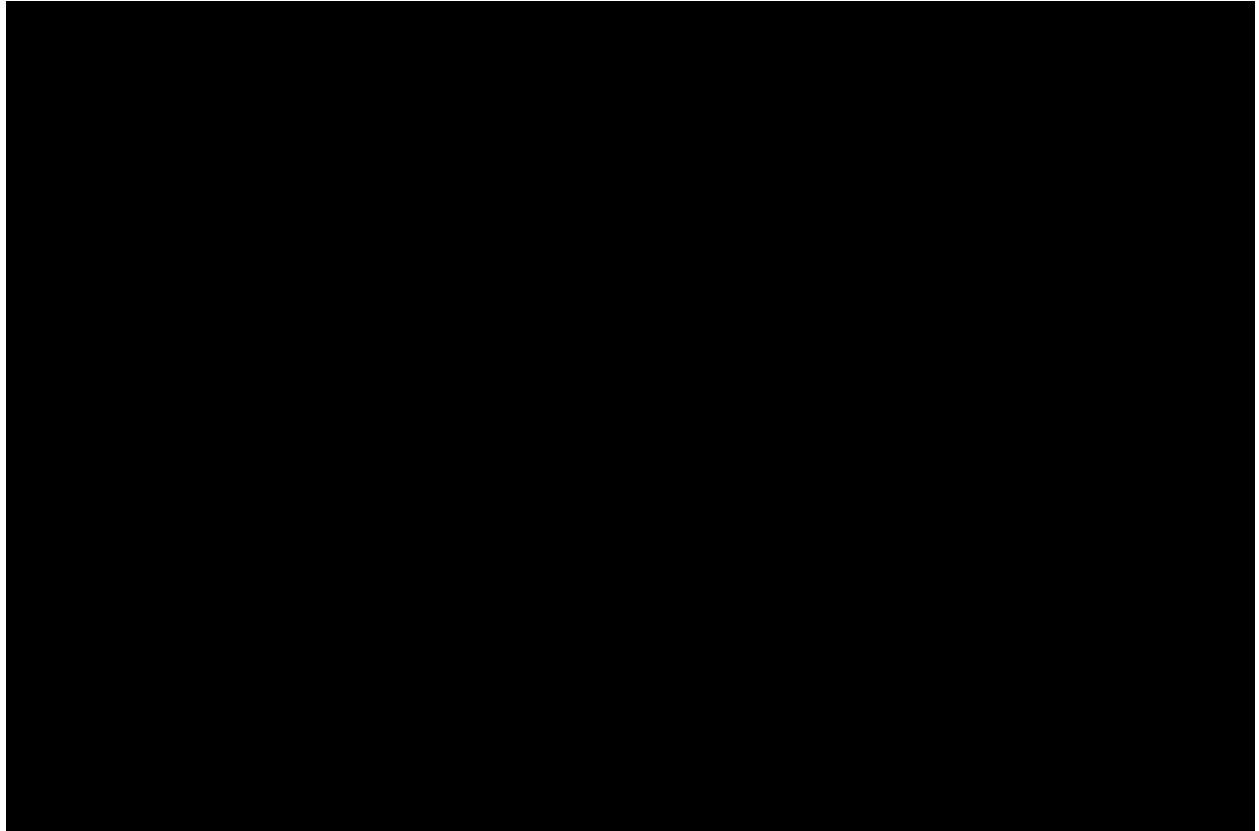


Congregation Shir Hadash

Evergreen will be profoundly enriching, and his future contributions to the field of teaching will be monumental.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Michael Walden



(Picture: Jacob teaching our introduction to cryptography program to two children at the Des Moines Science Center as part of the Grin City Artist Residency)

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