

#### Application Related Information

---

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202430_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MIT	Program Name:	MIT

#### Recommendation Information

---

Recommended By:	Gilda Sheppard	Recommenders Title:	Faculty Emerita
Recommenders Institution:	The Evergreen State College	Contact Name:	Leah Threats
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	09/28/2023 01:24 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000110109055	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:	<a href="https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu">https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu</a>
--------------	-----------	---

#### Other Information

---

Created Time:	06/21/2023 05:31 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	09/28/2023 01:24 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



## The Evergreen State College - Tacoma Campus

I have known Leah Threats as a student in my interdisciplinary sociology cultural and media studies sections of our Liberal Arts programs here at The Evergreen State College in Tacoma. I was fortunate to have Leah in my *Dynamics of Culture and Identity* section of Evergreen's academic program Fall 2019 and in my summer course Therapy Through the Arts 2020. I have also witnessed her leadership skills in her role as office manager communicating and developing avenues to problem solve student academic and social needs in our learning community.

Leah works excellently across significant differences. Leah's comprehension of both theories and practices of diversity is informed by her understanding of the importance of culturally relevant and responsive teaching and learning. Leah speaks with clarity and even her tone invites curiosity. Leah has the kind of demeanor and ethical behavior where a learning community is encouraged to explore examine and experience the benefits of cultural literacy.

Her work-in administration, classroom teaching, human services, nursing, public health, therapy and counseling, has afforded her the experience and curiosity to examine teaching and learning within global contexts.

Leah's interest education and teaching has been a consistent passion evident in her project work, research, and community service work locally and in her study abroad in Kenya. Her interest to delve deeper is informed by her desire to not be a dilettante hence to not only read, but also have proximity to an educational experience in the context of its unfolding teaching and learning, counseling and other areas to promote the thriving and well-being of people.

Leah's particular interest in working with special needs children ignites her desire, preparation and access to spreading her learning and experiences with a wide audience within educational institutions, community groups and among youth and their families. Leah's work in community settings provides access to multiple entities in neighborhoods in diverse communities, classrooms, but particularly among African American and BIPOC communities. Her work has given her access to groups within administrative offices, faith groups, and much more.

Leah also understands the impact of both structural and systemic influences on people's lives due to race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, and ideological perspectives. Her work in education particularly among special needs children is exemplary and her thirsts for knowledge in this area of pedagogical innovations, teaching and learning has been evident locally however as she expands her reach and experiences she is equipped with skills in communication, critical and creative thinking to increase her access to not only local, national but also global entities. Her

media literacy, social media, and digital media skills are excellent. Leah's final project for *Dynamics of Culture and Identity* course was an excellently researched photographic art presentation on the role of poverty on educational access. Leah included the legacy of housing inequity such as redlining and other urban practices and policies such as gentrification, while presenting a rigorous historical analysis of poverty, hunger, food justice, the feminization of poverty and its devastating impact on families particularly BIPOC communities. Leah also laid the basis for amplifying the role of solidarity across significant differences. Leah's research and presentation was not one of pathology. She consistently demonstrates the subjects' historical agency; its collaborative and self-empowerment across differences that have proven to build a better world.

I highly recommend Leah Threats for the MIT program.

Peace,  
Gilda Sheppard, PhD.  
gildasheppard@gmail.com