

Application Related Information

Application: Application Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MIT

Iteration Name: 202540_GR_G
Program Name: MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Jessica Swanson

Recommenders Title: Director of Education and Outreach

Recommenders Institution: Planned Parenthood Southeast

Contact Name: Natasha Milburn

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: 10/15/2024 12:25 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000119644457

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: 08/23/2024 08:36 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 10/15/2024 12:25 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

Jessica Swanson
Director, Education and Outreach
Planned Parenthood Southeast
October 15, 2024

Dear Evergreen State College Admissions Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Natasha Milburn's application to Evergreen State College's Master's in Teaching program. As her colleague and former supervisor at Allies for Healing (AFH), where she worked as an Education and Curriculum Specialist, I have had the privilege of witnessing Natasha's growth as an eclectic, adaptable, and deeply principled educator. Her versatility, passion for learning, and unwavering commitment to justice make her an ideal candidate for your program.

Natasha's approach to education is remarkable for its breadth and adaptability. Whether facilitating workshops on burnout and self-care for activist communities or leading mindfulness art classes for diverse groups of young people, she consistently demonstrates a keen ability to meet learners where they are. She is particularly skilled at accommodating youth from a variety of ages, backgrounds, and abilities, always finding ways to make her programs accessible and meaningful to each participant. In our work together, I saw her contribute to the design and implementation of community education programs that blended traditional teaching with creative, experiential learning strategies rooted in resilience and mindfulness, ensuring that her students not only understood the material and felt empowered to apply it in their daily lives, but also had the tools they needed to navigate the world with improved mental health and greater peace.

Natasha's commitment to community-based activism is one of the most inspiring aspects of her work. Her education programs are not just about imparting knowledge, they are rooted in a larger vision of social justice and community healing. Her passion for causes such as LGBTQIA+ justice, reproductive justice, and ending genocide are woven into her educational endeavors in a way that feels both natural and deeply principled. In every project I have witnessed, Natasha demonstrates a profound understanding of how education can serve as a tool for activism and empowerment, and she is adept at helping others see the connections between personal growth and collective action.

One of Natasha's strengths is her ability to communicate effectively with families and key stakeholders, ensuring that her educational programs are holistic and community-centered. At AFH, she worked with universities, youth-serving organizations, public health groups, funders, churches, teens and parents and showed versatility and professionalism in her communication. She fosters a sense of collaboration and inclusion, making sure that every voice is heard and valued. Her work in addressing burnout and self-care, for example, not only provided practical tools for individuals but also fostered a sense of collective resilience among participants, empowering them to take ownership of their well-being in a supportive community context.

Natasha's quick learning, versatility, and commitment to her principles have consistently impressed me. She has a remarkable ability to absorb new information and adapt it to meet the needs of her students. Her ongoing work in organizing for justice and healing informs her educational practice in ways that set her apart from other educators I have worked with. Whether it's organizing community dialogues, advocating for marginalized voices, or teaching in

more formal settings, Natasha brings a rare combination of dedication, intellect, and heart to everything she does.

I wholeheartedly recommend Natasha Milburn for admission to your Master's in Teaching program. I am confident that she will bring the same level of passion, adaptability, and commitment to her graduate studies that she has brought to her work at AFH and beyond. Evergreen State College would be fortunate to have her as a student, and I have no doubt that she will make meaningful and much-needed contributions to the field of education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Swanson", with a stylized, flowing script.

Director, Education and Outreach
Planned Parenthood Southeast

Jessica.swanson@ppse.org

229-669-5644