

Application Related Information

Application: Application Not Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MIT

Iteration Name: 202540_GR_G
Program Name: MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Cathleen McConnell
Recommenders Institution: Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Group Programs Coordinator
Contact Name: Brittain Rhodes

Recommendation Waiver Choice:

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 10/10/2024 01:58 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000120511269

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: 10/09/2024 12:41 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 10/10/2024 01:58 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

October 10, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in the highest recommendation of Brittain Rhodes as she continues her academic journey to become a formal educator. Brittain has been a valuable member of the Conservation Engagement Program Instructor team for the last three years. In zoos and aquariums, we consider ourselves to be “informal educators”. Our programs take place outside of a traditional classroom while still prioritizing learning standards including the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

As a Zoo Explorers Camp program instructor, Brittain has been an exceptional asset since she is comfortable working with all the age groups ranging from preschoolers to students entering their senior year in high school. We provide instructors with structured lesson plans for each camp session. Sessions are led by 2-3 instructors who collaborate to present wild life and conservation information in a classroom setting and engage campers as they visit animals within the zoo and explore off-site natural areas. Instructors support each other in community building, group management and positive behavior supports.

The past two summers I asked her to take a larger role in the development of the outlines and activities for the 5th-7th grade graduate and 8th-11th grade graduate programs. Brittain confidentially took on this extra responsibility. As a Senior Instructor she was also responsible for mentoring new instructors.

In addition to her position with camps, Brittain was also selected to become a program Host for our popular Zoo Snooze overnight program. Like our camp program, this program requires the staff members to follow strict protocols for participant safety and animal welfare, retain and share a great deal of knowledge about our facility and the animals who make their home here, all the while enthusiastically engaging youth participants and their adult chaperones in a variety of activities.

Brittain was also invited to become a member of the Guest Engagement Interpretive team. In this position she received extensive training in how to engage our visitors to build connections with the animals in our care as they explore the various habitats, including touch pools with marine invertebrates. During these interactions, interpreters share their own knowledge and enthusiasm for each unique organism as they guide the guests to gently touch sea stars, urchins, anemones and other marine life.

Brittain’s confidence, patience, flexibility and caring attitude will serve her well in any program or field of study she chooses to enter. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Cathleen McConnell

Cathleen.McConnell@pdza.org

Conservation Engagement

Guest Engagement Programs Coordinator

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

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