

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202540_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MIT	Program Name:	MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Katie Savinski	Recommenders Title:	ELA Teacher
Recommenders Institution:	Olympia High School Freedom Farm	Contact Name:	Kamal Simmons
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:	01/27/2025 10:53 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000121587946	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
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Other Information

Created Time:	01/03/2025 06:10 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	01/27/2025 10:53 AM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

January 27, 2025

To the Graduate Admissions Department at the Evergreen State College,

It is with the greatest sincerity and utmost confidence that I recommend Kamal Simmons for admission to the Evergreen State College's Masters in Teaching program. Already, Kamal is one of the most gifted educators I have ever worked with and I cannot recommend him enough for any field of education in which he wishes to pursue.

I first came to work with Kamal in the fall of 2024 when he joined the staff of our small alternative high school program, the Olympia High School Freedom Farm, as a paraeducator. The students served by our program have predominately had negative experiences in the educational system; they've felt unconnected, left behind, and experienced a lack of responsibility and relevance when it comes to academic demands. In my eight years in education as a teacher and instructional coach – both in traditional and alternative program settings – I have never been so impressed by what can only be described as Kamal's natural ability to connect and build positive relationships with students and support their understanding of difficult concepts across multiple content areas. Kamal is particularly gifted at noticing what individual students need in order to be successful and either initiating the delivery of that need or advocating for that student to the rest of the team.

As an instructional partner, Kamal conducts himself with humility and courage, approaching anything he does not know with enthusiasm and eagerness, setting an example for us all. Kamal not only welcomes but seeks out responsibilities and can be trusted to follow through on any task; he is known to step in for anyone at the drop of a hat when there's a need to pull small groups together and participate in our lessons in a manner that consistently elevates the lesson being taught. Kamal is reflective, self-aware, and approachable. As a colleague, Kamal has a very human-centered approach to our work, encouraging others to prioritize rest, fun, and joy in their lives while simultaneously making it known that he is willing to step up to support us in any way he can.

Kamal is truly an asset to our team and will make an excellent addition to the Evergreen Master in Teaching program. Should any questions arise, I am happy to discuss Kamal's qualifications further.

In Community,

Katie Savinski
Freedom Farm Teacher
ksavinski@osd.wednet.edu