

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MIT

Iteration Name: 202540_GR_G
Program Name: MIT

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Kathryn Gaydowski
Recommenders Institution: Los Angeles Unified School District

Recommenders Title: Special Education Teacher
Contact Name: Ruby Vandenbrook

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: 01/30/2025 09:28 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000121598999

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: 01/10/2025 07:22 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 01/30/2025 09:28 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

University High School Charter
11800 Texas Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

January 30, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Ms. Ruby Vandebrook for the graduate program in Education at Evergreen State College. I have known Ms. Vandebrook since August 2024, when she began working at University High School Charter, a Los Angeles Unified School District affiliated charter school. She works full time with two students in my self-contained special education classroom for students with extensive support needs, as a behavior implementation interventionist. She supports each of these students, one on one, on alternate days. Though her primary role with these students is behavioral support, she also provides academic support. I am the case carrier teacher for these students. They are each in my classroom two to four hours per day.

As the case carrier of the students assigned to Ms. Vandebrook, I work closely with her. I have grown to know her teaching and behavioral support styles. She is a conscientious, engaged paraprofessional who is warm and empathetic in her work with students with special needs. She is also an excellent communicator with the staff. She takes initiative in supporting her students, as well as in working with and engaging with the other students in the classroom.

Ms. Vandebrook has supported and taught students with a variety of special needs. When one of her assigned students is absent, she supports other students in the classroom. She has worked with students with autism and with intellectual disabilities ranging from moderate to severe. She also supports these students throughout the school day, including in general education classes and environments (e.g lunch). She supports the students she works with in a consistent, empathetic, and engaged manner, always demonstrating consideration of their individual needs. In addition to following and implementing each student's behavioral support plan, Ms. Vandebrook is aware of each of her assigned students' specific needs. This includes their health, social skills, and organizational needs, their learning levels and styles, as well as their recommended modifications and accommodations.

Ms. Vandebrook does an excellent job supporting her assigned students in their academic activities, including helping them identify and use strategies to complete their classwork. Ms. Vandebrook uses a variety of academic support strategies, and gives students the choice of which strategy to use. She then supports them in doing the task as independently as possible. For example, she showed one of her students how to use touch point dots, drawing circles and using counting discs, to solve addition and subtraction problems. After exposing the student to

these different strategies, she helped her to use her strategy of choice, with as much independence as possible.

While supporting her students in their general education classes, Ms. Vandenbrook collaborates with the general education teacher, case carrier teacher and students in selecting and implementing appropriate accommodations and modifications. In addition to supporting her individual students, Ms. Vandenbrook has led small group activities in my classroom, such as reading, academic games, and cooking groups. In leading these groups, she presents the material in a creative and engaging manner. She keeps the activity flowing, while providing individualized support to each student. In these situations, she makes sure that her students are engaged. In addition, her manner is calm, reassuring and patient.

Ms. Vandenbrook displays excellent communication and interpersonal skills with teachers, co-workers, and students. She works well with therapists who provide services for her students. Ms. Vandenbrook approaches tasks with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. She engages proactively and positively with all of the students in the class, including those with challenging behaviors.

Ms. Vandenbrook demonstrates outstanding initiative and leadership skills. She often volunteers and takes it upon herself to lead educational activities, assist other students in class, and provide classroom organizational support. She created and presented a slide show based on an international trip she had taken. It included facts for the students to learn and a follow-up comprehension activity, which was appropriately scaffolded for their individual needs. She encouraged one of the students in the class to participate in a challenging general education class that her assigned student was in. This class is now a highlight of this student's school year.

When Ms. Vandenbrook informed me that she was interested in going into the field of education, I was pleased. As a teacher with over twenty years of experience and my National Board Certification, I believe that any graduate program or school would be fortunate to have her as a member. Her positive qualities and her professionalism will be an asset in multiple areas of education and educational leadership.

I enthusiastically recommend Ms. Vandenbrook for this program. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathryn K. Gaydowski, M.Ed., Special Education
Special Education Teacher
University High School Charter
universityhs.lausd.org
NBCT

