

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202410_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Karen Ventura-Kalen
Recommenders Institution: Eastern Washington University
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Dr. Education

Contact Name: Leonard Allred

Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 04/03/2023 09:41 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000109348656

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

2 years

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Leonard was both an excellent self-directed learner but was also engaged and encouraging to his peers by providing encouragement and displaying leadership skills in his interaction with peers. See attached letter.

Time since last contact with applicant:

recently

Applicant as productive member of group: As previously noted, Leonard was highly engaged with peers in all course sessions and it was clear his peers appreciated and recognized the strength in his suggested ideas, strategies, and analysis of challenging situations along with appreciating his use of humor as a critical and analytical learning process / tool. See attached letter.

Relationship with Applicant:		Applicant most significant strengths:	Perspective taking and the ability to critically assess challenging situations in both his own professional situations as well as those presented by peers and in lecture materials related to real life issues. Leonard has a dry and witty sense of humor that often amused his peers as well as this professor. This was most often applied to himself and his teaching challenges and to help peers find humor in overall general teaching challenges. See attached letter.
	Professor		
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Excellent	Responsibility/reliability:	Excellent
Communication Skills - Oral:	Excellent	Communication skills - written:	Excellent
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Outstanding	Ability to work independently:	Outstanding
Ability to handle stress:	Excellent	Ability to think critically:	Excellent
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Outstanding	Ability to think creatively:	Outstanding
Openness to feedback:	Outstanding	Potential for leadership:	Outstanding
Ability to work in a team:	Outstanding	Personal/professional reflection:	Outstanding

Description Information

Description:	Form URL: https://evergreenstatecollege.radius
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Other Information

Created Time: 03/16/2023 09:24 PM	Created By: Josephine Bernier
Modified Time: 04/03/2023 09:41 AM	Modified By: Josephine Bernier

Dr. Karen Ventura-Kalen, Lecturer
Master of Education - Eastern Washington University
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703-798-3221

April 3, 2023

Graduate Admissions Committee
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway, NW
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear Graduate Admissions Committee

It is with pleasure that I recommend Leonard Allred to The Evergreen State College, Master of Public Administration.

I am a lecturer at Eastern Washington University (EWU) located in Cheney, Washington. I have held this position since 2009. I teach in EWU's online Master of Education (M.Ed.)—Early Childhood Education program. In my position, I teach several core subjects through which students proceed across their two-year M.Ed. program. Therefore, I have the pleasure of both working with and getting to know students over the course of their program. Leonard Allred is one such student I had the pleasure of working with across his M.Ed. courses, beginning in the fall of 2021.

As a student, Leonard demonstrated many strengths, including thorough and thoughtful application to all his assignments. During this time, Leonard was diligent and conscientious in his work, completing timely assignments and course projects. His ability to synthesize and analyze course materials was impressive and helpful to his peers, and it was obvious he took pride in his work, which was always articulated in an intelligent, clear, and effective voice.

Leonard also brought a depth of maturity to his work. This maturity and his ability to think through theory is, I believe, in large part a result of his personal and professional cultural context, which he shared in the course online Discussion Boards with peers and in his individual assignments to me, as instructor. To paraphrase Leonard, he fell outside the realm of White American culture as a child and student. As a student enrolled in my classes, he worked as a classroom teacher in a foreign country and a culture that was new to him. Leonard effectively intellectualized these experiences, examining them from different facets as he wove them into the fabric of his analyses, synthesis, and self-reflections of the course assignments.

Additionally, perhaps because of his diverse world experience, Leonard was able, more than others, to engage in perspective taking; examining and reexamining what he valued in teaching

and learning and what he hoped to bring to the children, families, and communities of not just his host country/culture, but to students and families in all communities. It is these experiences that contribute to Leonard's understanding that all children, but especially children from backgrounds like his own, need support and experiences to know and believe that they, too, are important and have potential to be active contributors to society. Indeed, Leonard's real-world experiences make him a strong candidate for working with others on social challenges facing society and the world today.

Other strengths Leonard demonstrated throughout our time together were his compassion and support for peers who shared challenges and struggles in their own teaching and learning. His peers often expressed appreciation for his generous and thoughtful insight into their small world problems that connected to larger social and political issues facing classroom teachers in this twenty-first century and post-Covid world. At the same time, Leonard was also self-effacing, willing to share stories of his own struggles that proved inspiring to his peers through his willingness to share what and how he worked to face these challenges. As he noted in his teaching philosophy statement produced for one course session, learning is an ever-evolving experience that requires acquiring and engaging with new knowledge and skills throughout one's life.

Storytelling is an effective tool to engage and connect with others and a compelling trait as it allows others to better understand, through story, the experiences, knowledge, and passion of others. Leonard's ability to share stories of his experiences encouraged his peers to (re)examine their own challenges and joys through the lens of story and prompted curiosity and encouragement on his behalf, but also in their own lives. And, as Leonard noted in his teaching philosophy statement, learning is an ever-evolving experience that requires acquiring and engaging with new knowledge and skills throughout one's life.

Although I have never personally met Leonard, it is obvious that his passion for education and teaching and learning with children and families extends well beyond his graduate coursework or his own classrooms. I feel confident that Leonard is an excellent candidate for The Evergreen State College, Master of Public Administration program and believe his passion for issues related to social and economic growth that emphasize social change and democratic governance.

Please feel free to contact me at 793-798-3221 or kventurakalen@ewu.edu if you have further questions or would like further elaboration on Leonard's work as a student in my classes.

Sincerely,

Karen Ventura-Kalen, PhD
Lecturer, Eastern Washington University
kventurakalen@ewu.edu