

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202410_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MPA	Program Name:	MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Jess Tourtellotte-Palumbo, MS	Recommenders Title:	Academic Specialist, Student Success—Disability Support
Recommenders Institution:	The Evergreen State College	Contact Name:	Manuel Aybar
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:	02/01/2023 09:40 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000108963033	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	Manuel is one of the strongest self-directed students that I have worked with during my time at Evergreen. He is highly communicative and prompt. To put it simply, he gets things done. He can take on multiple tasks, but also recognizes the importance of boundaries and self-care, this allows his ability as a learner to not be compromised.
6 months		
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:	During TRiO's pre-orientation, Manuel connected with several students. By the end of the day, there was a plan to start a student-led service animals' group, which is currently finalizing the process of becoming a formal student group. Manuel is a leader, but more importantly, a listener. He creates space for others and lifts them up. He can work independently but thrives when working with communities of people.
4 days ago		

Relationship with Applicant:		Applicant most significant strengths:	Manuel has worked in several rigorous and demanding careers, this will benefit his graduate work and his connection to cohort members. He is patient and shifts his presentation of thoughts to meet the learning styles of his peers and advisors. Manuel is ambitious but his expectations are firmly grounded to understand that circumstances might change the outcomes he expects. He rolls with those changes and sees the positive of them.
	Academic Specialist		
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Outstanding	Responsibility/reliability:	Outstanding
Communication Skills - Oral:	Outstanding	Communication skills - written:	Outstanding
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Outstanding	Ability to work independently:	Outstanding
Ability to handle stress:	Outstanding	Ability to think critically:	Outstanding
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.radio>

Other Information

Created Time: 01/17/2023 09:20 PM

Modified Time: 02/01/2023 09:40 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

January 31, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I offer this recommendation for Manuel Aybar as he applies for The Evergreen State College's Master of Public Administration program. I came to know Manuel through his participation in TRiO Student Success: Disability Support Services at The Evergreen State College, a federally funded TRiO program that offers support to students with a documented disability. Like many of our TRiO students, Manny has the added challenge of navigating a world structured (mostly unintentionally) by an ableist society. Despite this additional and complex barrier, Manuel has flourished professionally and academically, but most importantly as a human being.

Being and evolving as a human is the crux of Manuel's work. For him, flawed moments are equally significant as life's beautiful moments, especially ones tinged with regret. In Manuel's eyes, mistakes aren't about regrets and going back in time to fix them, it's the beginning of a person's journey toward understanding, growth, and transformation—"a shedding of ego" as he once brilliantly described it.

At Evergreen, Manuel has forged strong relationships with students, faculty, and staff from various departments across campus. His goal in collaborating is simple: provide more inclusive, dynamic, and attainable supports and services for students, particularly students from underrepresented communities. Manuel is building a community that with time and continued commitment will enact noticeable change. In Manuel's six months as a student, he has gently, yet passionately pushed for more upfront representation of people with disabilities on campus. For example, he started a student group for folx with service animals. This project not only increases the visibility of students with disabilities on campus, but also creates a conversation around access rights and needs while planting a seed of disability culture and acceptance. A seed that Greeners are eager to see cultivated.ⁱ Most significantly, Manuel has created strong representation for Dominican/Nicaraguan men and individuals with disabilities by holding a position as an Assistant Resident Director, a role of leadership. Compared to his previous roles, this may seem small, yet Manuel knows creating a safe and equitable living environment for students is as equally powerful as conducting a world-class orchestra (which he's done).

Manuel is an excellent candidate for Evergreen's Master of Public Administration; he is a compassionate, flexible, and charismatic student and leader. His ability to easily effect change on small and large scales is due to his strong communicative and empathetic nature. I am honored to have had the opportunity to work with Manuel and believe any graduate program would benefit greatly from his learning process, and his natural mentorship/teaching skills.

Sincerely,

Jess Tourtellotte-Palumbo, M.S.
TRiO Student Success: Disability Support
The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA

ⁱ Baker, Angie and Young, H. Robert. (2020). 2020 Climate Survey on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: final school report for The Evergreen State College. SOUNDROCKET. <https://www.evergreen.edu/sites/default/files/Evergreen%20Report%20F2%2020200901.pdf>.