

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202410_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Carmen Hoover
Recommenders Institution: The Evergreen State College

Recommenders Title: Faculty-NPP
Contact Name: Nakia DeMiero

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: 02/10/2023 10:49 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000109014732

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

4.5 years

Applicant ability as self-directed learner:

Nakia Demiero is one of the most able students I have ever worked with--she is a highly capable self-directed learner.

Time since last contact with applicant:

1 week

Applicant as productive member of group:

Nakia Demiero has abilities to lead, to follow, and to work tactically or strategically within groups. She is a clear asset to a project-orientated team.

Relationship with Applicant:

Faculty/Student

Applicant most significant strengths:

Nakia Demiero is a savvy, creative, and analytical community member who is committed to improving the conditions of the world. She takes the time needed to develop skills that serve this end.

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

Openness to feedback: Outstanding

Ability to work in a team: Outstanding

Ability to think creatively: Outstanding

Potential for leadership: Outstanding

Personal/professional
reflection: Outstanding

Description Information

Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu>

Other Information

Created Time: 01/31/2023 04:19 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 02/10/2023 10:49 AM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

August 15, 2022

Dear Selection Committee:

I am happy to write this letter of recommendation in support of Ms. Nakia Demiero's application to the MPA program at The Evergreen State College. I have known Ms. Demiero for about four and a half years, as she studied with me in the Native Pathways Program (NPP) at the Evergreen State College.

Nakia Demiero's written work has come to be consistently strong, starting with her exceptional journal writing that was sustained over her time at Evergreen. Her low-stakes writing was various, exploratory, risk-taking, and, at times, profound. The foundational tools of analysis have been put to effective use, and she has strong, productive writing and thinking habits. At several points, she felt that she had gaps in knowledge and took actions to fill those gaps. Her self-study glossary documents were especially impressive. In the fall, with her permission, I will be using some of her writings as classroom models.

Additionally, she has done excellent work when assigned to writing teams, and these skills led to strong planning and application of a uniform writing process, imaginative rhetoric, clear and actionable thesis statements/abstracts, detailed and actionable outlines, rhetorical assessment documents, and idea-generating pre-writing and journal entries. Use of accessible English, as well as the *Elements of Indigenous Style* handbook, was met with curiosity, attention, and intentional application to formal and informal written work. She is a leader in the new wave of intentional thinkers who prioritize clear communications over usage conventions. Her quarter to quarter resulting portfolios demonstrated the exploration of close reading, analysis, project planning, and the principles of both critical thinking and critical theory. Her participation in writing teams was strong throughout her time at NPP, and she contributed to highly effective invention, writing, and editing during class workshops.

Her coursework was further deepened by identification of, application to, and reflection on research ethics, both individually and in and seminar discussions: her work with Shawn Wilson's *Research is Ceremony* was applied in a professional manner that has reverberated throughout the Native Pathways Program, and operational (as well as stipulative) definitions of ontology, epistemology, axiology, and methodology have consistently been incorporated into written, verbal, and group work. Her research projects have resulted in strong outcomes while engaging with Indigenous knowledge by applying both Indigenous and Western methodologies, methods, and other underpinnings unique to the communities in which she works. While still an undergrad, she published her collected works on plant medicine in both handbook and card pack forms. She has performed countless quiet acts of service as she consistently shares her knowledge generously with anyone who asks.

Visual literacy has been demonstrated in an excellent way with the presentation of visual essays in our core Native Pathways Program. These essays were built upon ten captioned images to create a visual and oral argument covering carefully selected issues. The topics that she featured always wrapped around to health and wellness, whether she was presenting on an individual plant species or her weekend hikes to different waterfalls in the region. The use of diagrams and other holistic academic tools to convey main points of weekly readings also showcased intersectional intellectual strengths and visual literacy. Ms. Demiero was a powerful creativity leader in our program.

At Evergreen and in the larger communities she inhabits, Nakia Demiero has excelled in leadership, making guesses, and asking questions; everyone in her classes benefitted from her ability to take responsibility for her own learning, and she has consistently been generous in her support of others' writing and thinking. She served for one year as a proactive peer mentor at our NPP site, and her leadership improved the new-student experience immensely. She recently graduated, and as a parting gift produced a three-ring binder orientation for me to share with incoming students. In my 30-year teaching career, it is certainly the most important and useful body of work that any student has ever left behind for continued use. Her dedication to detail, to conceptual perspective, to practical uses of knowledge, and to relational accountability in community—she operates in a way that is extraordinary. Given that, her humble, compassionate ways of listening and speaking to others is a joy to witness. Though she is functioning at such a well-rounded and comprehensive intellectual level, her mentorship of others is always based on shared experience and deep affinity for all of the living world—and though she can be quite vigorous in her positions, I have never seen her in a situation where she spoke with anything but humility and respect.

Nakia Demiero worked incredibly hard to succeed and consistently turned in beautiful work, especially when it came to writing, visual information, and peer leadership. She works well under pressure and has the ability to keep going even when things are difficult, and consistently makes time to give encouragement to her peers. Many recent graduates would tell you that she—even in a program that cultivates community and mutual aid for all—played a particularly pivotal role in their successes. She shares generously with her plant medicine work, and continues to be an incredible asset to the Native Pathways Program and the Evergreen State College.

Nakia Demiero's high potential for academic, professional, and community success is evident in her achievements so far, and I am happy to give her my highest recommendation. She is a natural thought leader, and she has those hard-to-define qualities that make someone a true pleasure to work with. Should you have additional questions about this uniquely talented prospective student, please do not hesitate to contact me at hooverc@evergreen.edu.

Sincerely,

Carmen Hoover
Native Pathways Program