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**Application Related Information**

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

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**Recommendation Information**

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Recommended By:	Alisa Solberg	Recommenders Title:	Program Manager
Recommenders Institution:	Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	Contact Name:	Charnay DuCrest
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:	01/31/2023 11:54 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000108377859	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

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**Recommender Form Questions**

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How long have you known applicant:	5 years	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	She is works very well in a self directed environment. She has great time management and prioritization skills.
Time since last contact with applicant:	yesterday	Applicant as productive member of group:	She is a tremendous asset to any group. Her interpersonal and communication skills are very strong.
Relationship with Applicant:	She is a member of my staff.	Applicant most significant strengths:	Charnay has the ability to put people at ease. She is compassionate and caring.
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Excellent	Responsibility/reliability:	Outstanding
Communication Skills - Oral:	Outstanding	Communication skills - written:	Outstanding
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Outstanding	Ability to work independently:	Very Good
Ability to handle stress:	Very Good	Ability to think critically:	Excellent
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Excellent	Ability to think creatively:	Excellent
Openness to feedback:	Very Good	Potential for leadership:	Excellent
Ability to work in a team:	Outstanding	Personal/professional reflection:	Excellent

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**Description Information**

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Description:

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

Other Information

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Created Time: 11/08/2022 07:50 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 01/31/2023 11:54 AM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

Puanani Nihoa, MPA  
Assistant Director, MPA Program  
The Evergreen State College

Re: Charnay DuCrest, MPA Program Applicant

Dear Puanani,

My name is Alisa Solberg. I am the Program Director of the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department Treatment Services and Meds First. These programs provide medication and counseling for the treatment of opioid use disorder for more than 1,000 patients in Pierce County.

Charnay Ducrest has been an invaluable asset to these programs and to the patients we serve since before I started my tenure with the agency 5 years ago. In her role as Lead Peer Counselor, she works as a part of our multidisciplinary team to support patients who need assistance accessing primary care, behavioral health care, and financial and social support programs.

She calls on her own lived experience with opioid use disorder to build trust and often develops a level of rapport with patients that other providers may not be able to achieve. I have been so impressed with her ability to connect with the most vulnerable and hardest to reach people, to use that connection to provide trauma informed care, and ultimately to help them improve their health.

Her work on the Pierce County Opioid Task Force has been instrumental in building community both within our agency and among partner agencies, a safety net of providers who are better integrated and work more efficiently together because of her coordination. Patients and staff alike rely on the sense of community she creates to more easily navigate a complex health care system.

Charnay has been a tremendous colleague and friend. I wholeheartedly recommend her for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at Evergreen State College. As an alumna of the program, I recognize the excellent fit between Charnay's knowledge, skills, and abilities, and the purpose/goals of the MPA program.

I believe she will be as much of an asset to the MPA program as she has been to Treatment Services! Please reach out to me if you have questions or concerns, my email address is [asolberg@tpchd.org](mailto:asolberg@tpchd.org). My cell phone number is 253-377-4032.

Sincerely,  
Alisa Solberg, Program Director  
Tacoma Pierce County Health Department  
Treatment Services and Meds First