Application Related Information

Application:	Application Not Verified	Iteration Name:	202410_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MPA	Program Name:	MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Steve Niva	Recommenders Title:	Dr.
Recommenders Institution:	Evergreen State College	Contact Name:	Christopher Garcia
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	06/29/2023 09:18 AM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000110107427	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	Two years	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	I believe his maturity and sense of purpose as well as recent educational accomplishments enable him to succeed as a self directed learner.
Time since last contact with applicant:	Three weeks	Applicant as productive member of group:	He has a very high level of ability to work with groups.
Relationship with Applicant:	Faculty	Applicant most significant strengths:	He has extensive life experiences that give him a very broad and mature outlook on life and he has strong motivation to make a difference.
Ability to complete rigourous grad program:	Above Average	Responsibility/reliability:	Excellent
Communication Skills - Oral:	Above Average	Communication skills - written:	Above Average
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Excellent	Ability to work independently:	Excellent
Ability to handle stress:	Excellent	Ability to think critically:	Very Good
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Very Good	Ability to think creatively:	Very Good
Openness to feedback:	Outstanding	Potential for leadership:	Very Good
Ability to work in a team:	Outstanding	Personal/professional reflection:	Excellent

Description Information

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

Other Information

Created Time: 06/23/2023 12:15 PM   Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 06/29/2023 09:18 AM   Modified By: Josephine Bernier

Dr. Steve Niva, Member of the Faculty
The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington 98505
(360) 867-5612 ⬥ nivas@evergreen.edu

June 27, 2023

To MPA Admissions,

I am writing in support of Christopher Garcia's application to the MPA program at Evergreen. Chris was enrolled in my 2022-2023 program "Borders, Migrants and Refugees in the Age of the Climate Change" at The Evergreen State College as well as a previous program on U.S. foreign policy and the "War on Terror." I have worked with and mentored Chris over this time and I believe he now has the motivation and capacity to succeed in the MPA program.

Chris is a mature student who has significant life experiences both from his upbringing as a working class Mexican-American in the Bay Area of California and from his service in the military during the Iraq War. This experience has given him perspective about where and how he might make a difference and find a role in contributing to society. Over the past few years, he found his direction and purpose while he was a student in my program which has led him to apply to the MPA program.

On the one hand, although coming back to college after many years away, Chris has worked hard to develop his academic skills in reading, writing and communication and has achieved a solid level of undergraduate academic accomplishment. A year and a half ago, he lacked some skills and confidence in his work, but now he writes clear thesis driven essays and can present clear and well outlined presentations. In terms of content, Chris has a strong interest in history and ideas, but now he can work with theories and explanations about social science topics such as global migration and asylum policy, state power and law, the nature of climate change and its human impacts, and other topics. He showed critical thinking and an ability to assess the evidence behind different theories and wrote good papers on these topics.   By the end of this past year, I felt that Chris had become a student with potential for graduate work in the social sciences.

On the other hand, a year and a half ago, Chris wasn't sure of where he wanted to go with his education other than he knew he needed to obtain his B.A. for whatever he wanted to do. But over the time in the program Chris developed an increasing interest in public policy and eventually in the role of civil society in shaping policy and providing services. In fact, it was during our trip to Morocco in Spring 2023 when he saw how Moroccan NGOs worked to provide support for migrants that he crystalized his thoughts about wanting to seek an MPA degree as an avenue to explore how to work with organizations around public policy issues.

So Chris now seems to have both the key ingredients it will take to succeed in the MPA program: a good academic skill set and a purpose for enrolling in this MA program. I should add that he also has a number of helpful attributes such as an excellent ability to work with others, an excellent ability to deal with diverse points of view and an excellent ability to be a supportive classmate. I think Chris can be an important member of the incoming MPA class and I hope you give him every consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Niva
Professor, International Studies
The Evergreen State College