

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202410_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Riva Villa
Recommenders Institution: The Evergreen State College
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓
Received Date: 01/18/2023 02:11 PM
Recommendation Type: General
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000108646499

Recommenders Title: Director of Upward Bound Shelton
Contact Name: Philip Gyamfi
Recommendation Waiver Choice:
Recommendation Status: Received
Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.
Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

8 years

Time since last contact with applicant:

1.5 hours

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Philip has studied independently and in groups at Evergreen since 2014, and he is independently driven to learn and lead others. He has a history of self-directed service-learning both in local communities and abroad in Rwanda, cognizant of his cultural perspective and academic goals when travelling.
Applicant as productive member of group: Philip is currently a productive member of the Upward Bound Shelton team, and he has contributed greatly to our program. He has extensive experience as an athlete on the Evergreen soccer team, and he is interested in collaborating with community organizations and other Evergreen offices.

Relationship with Applicant:

Applicant most significant strengths:

Philip's greatest strengths are his drive and his patience. He is also goal-oriented, and he comes up with creative solutions to challenging problems. He is also a reliable and supportive member of our team, and this graduate program makes sense as his next career step.

supervisor

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: Outstanding

Ability to analyze/problem solve: Excellent

Ability to think creatively: Excellent

Openness to feedback: Outstanding

Potential for leadership: Outstanding

Ability to work in a team: Outstanding

Personal/professional reflection: Excellent

Description Information

Description:

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

Other Information

Created Time: 12/08/2022 01:23 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 01/18/2023 02:11 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

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Olympia, WA 98505
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January 18, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Philip Gyamfi for the M.P.A. program at The Evergreen State College. I have known him for about eight years now as a volunteer and employee for the federal Upward Bound (UB) programs at Evergreen, and I have seen him grow immensely as a professional in that time.

The Upward Bound program works with local high schools to help low-income, first-generation-to-college students in Tacoma, Lakewood, and Shelton to obtain a postsecondary degree. Overall, the educational aspiration levels of these communities are low, which makes students think themselves unfit for college. This is especially problematic because many of the students the program serves are students of color, who already face a barrage of obstacles on the path to higher education.

Philip currently works as an Educational Advisor for the Upward Bound Shelton program, and he has since October of 2021. But he began working with UB as a Night Security Guard for our residential Summer Learning Institute in 2015, and he has worked with the UB programs each summer since, continuing his role as Night Security before moving on to become Security Supervisor, Elective and Core Summer Class Instructor (2018, 2019, and 2022), and, finally, Student Success Coach. Philip has also volunteered regularly with the UB programs during the academic year in various capacities, including tutoring, presentations, and workshops, building deep, lasting relationships with all of the underrepresented students he has served.

In his various positions with UB, he worked one-on-one and with entire classes helping students to better understand the concepts they're learning, as well as helping them to develop leadership, college success, and cultural aptitude. Philip has always been sensitive to students' needs, and he has been patient and understanding when helping them work through their struggles. Staff and students alike appreciated his honesty and reliability, and, consequently, they began to see him as a friend and leader.

As he continued to work with the program over the years, I observed an intense passion emerge in him for education and helping disadvantaged youth, and this passion drove the tireless work he did and the unconditional compassion he demonstrated for the students he served. Since working with the UB program, he has gone on to conduct anti-genocide work with youth in Rwanda, and has a demonstrated interest in pursuing public service as a career.

So, thank you for considering Philip Gyamfi for this program; he has contributed significant energy to promoting equity and access in education, and I know the experiences he will gain through this opportunity will only add to the repertoire of assets that motivate his efforts. As such, please feel free to contact me with any further questions regarding his merit or other qualifications.

Sincerely,

Riva R. Villa, MA
Director, Shelton Upward Bound