

Application Related Information

Application: Application Not Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202410_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Thomas Wiedemann	Recommenders Title:	Healthcare Compliance Director Veterans Administration (retired)
Recommenders Institution:	Retired	Contact Name:	Roberta Kowald
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:	07/06/2023 09:29 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000109939287	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	28 years	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	Self direction towards positive and effective conclusions is a hallmark of Roberta's character. Her success in public health was very often in spite of very vague and confusing guidance and absent supervisory support. If something needs to be done, she identifies the goal, asks questions, and gets it done.
Time since last contact with applicant:	1 week	Applicant as productive member of group:	Roberta works very well with others, is respectful of ideas different from her own and will seek to understand things with which she disagrees. While not one to hold back her own perspectives, she expresses them in a way conductive to group dialogue and dynamics.

Relationship with Applicant:

Applicant most significant strengths:

Roberta is a lifelong learner identify interests and gaps in her own knowledge and/or experience to study and master new skills and perspectives. She has a strong sense of the "end game" and the way to get there. She is a team player while able to maintain her own integrity, working with other who may have very different or even opposing viewpoints. Finally, she cares. A lot. I have never met anyone as genuinely concerned about other people, particularly those who have been traditionally marginalized; and will work hard to improve life for them and her broader community.

Professional colleague/friend

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.radius>

Other Information

Created Time: 05/25/2023 12:27 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

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Modified By: Josephine Bernier

July 6, 2023

Marcia Zitzelman
Assistant Director MPA Olympia
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear Ms. Zitzelman,

I am writing this letter in support of Roberta Kowald's application for the Master of Public Administration program at The Evergreen State College. I have known and worked with Ms. Kowald for over twenty-five years with the first ten years of that relationship working with her in the Washington State Tobacco Prevention program at local health departments and the state Department of Health (DOH). Ms. Kowald's commitment to the success of the program, the young people she worked with, and the multiple levels of local public health leadership demonstrated her knowledge of public health science, ability manage effective programs often at times with a minimum of available resources, and ability to work well with county and state partners to achieve program goals. As a contract and program manager at DOH in later years I would regularly depend on Ms. Kowald's knowledge, ability to assess and understand complex situations, and strong sense of teamwork to get the job done.

Since my years in the Washington State public health system, I have maintained a friendship with Roberta and continue to be regularly surprised by her ability to identify key messages and themes in much of public discourse that is often anything but clear, bringing understanding with razor sharp insights and no small dose of bravery in expressing her well-reasoned opinions. That is to say, she is not shy about saying what needs to be said when it needs saying.

I believe Ms. Kowald will benefit from the program at Evergreen and use the knowledge and skills gained for her community. In turn, the MPA program and fellow students will benefit from having her as well; her unique perspectives and willingness to express them will challenge and motivate others to think outside their normal scope and she, in turn, will learn from them. It is with full confidence of success I make this recommendation, please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thomas J Wiedemann

Thomas J. Wiedemann
(Retired) Director of Integrity & Compliance
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Cathedral City, CA 92234