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Dear Graduate Admissions Officer,

I am writing this personal recommendation letter for Alden Nagel, a current student at The Evergreen State College, as Alden is applying to your Master's of Public Administration program for the upcoming academic year.

I have known Alden from the time he was 3 months old, as I've been a long-time friend of his mother Debra Nagel and I met his father William Wayman.

Having known him over the years, I am very impressed with how he has grown as a young person. His road was not an easy one, since he was raised by a single parent, and has lived with a diagnosis of schizoaffective bipolar disorder since he was 20 years old. I believe he has an irrefutable strength in him to persevere beyond these obstacles in his life that shows he is characteristically fit to be a graduate student.

I remember when his mother told me that he was teaching himself Japanese back when he was 12. He learned some Japanese so that he could play video games in their original language. I found this to be an impressive sense of motivation and determination for a 12 year old. I can also remember him being enrolled in a summer philosophy course at the University of Washington called "The Meaning Of Life", as he was interested in philosophy and ethics from a young age. I was happy to hear that he enrolled at The Evergreen State College later on in his life, as I believe it is an institution that works well for him. I am glad to hear that he has only enjoyed it ever since.

His choice of subject of undergraduate studies is directly related to my profession, since I teach media and film, and have made several short films and two feature length films. One of my films, Americana, was screened at the BH Program of The Sarajevo Film Festival in 2017. Having worked in the field, I can very clearly see Alden performing wonderfully in a leadership role in the world of film.

His eloquence and intellectual maturity is of high level. His understanding of literature and philosophy is also very robust. While conversing with him about various aspects of film aesthetics I was impressed by his sophisticated critical observations and construction of what he was saying, none of which had any superficial intellectual pretentiousness. Through reading his work and conversing with him, I have found that his interpersonal and communication skills are excellent; communicating ideas come so naturally for him, both in written form as well as spoken form. He is a great communicator and facilitator of ideas. I can clearly see him excelling in studying administration.

Overall, I believe that Alden Nagel would be a great addition to your program.

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