

Application Related Information

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

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Peter Bacho	Recommenders Title:	Adjunct Faculty
Recommenders Institution:	Evergreen State College Tacoma	Contact Name:	Karen Vargas
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	07/13/2023 12:51 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000110203667	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	2 years	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	see letter
Time since last contact with applicant:	six months	Applicant as productive member of group:	see letter
Relationship with Applicant:	former student	Applicant most significant strengths:	see letter
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Very Good	Responsibility/reliability:	Outstanding
Communication Skills - Oral:	Outstanding	Communication skills - written:	Above Average
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Outstanding	Ability to work independently:	Outstanding
Ability to handle stress:	Outstanding	Ability to think critically:	Excellent
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Excellent	Ability to think creatively:	Excellent
Openness to feedback:	Excellent	Potential for leadership:	Outstanding
Ability to work in a team:	Outstanding	Personal/professional reflection:	Below Average

Description Information

Description:	Form URL:	https://evergreenstatecollege.radius.com
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Other Information

Created Time:	07/10/2023 11:15 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	07/13/2023 12:51 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

The Evergreen State College
Tacoma Campus
July 12, 2023

To: MPA Program, TESC
From: Peter Bacho, JD, LLM

Regarding: Application of Karen Vargas

Karen Vargas, my former student in the Tacoma Program, has asked me for a letter of recommendation. I do so gladly. I have had her as a seminar student, and I know her work well.

As a student Karen was good – a mature, well organized, and focused adult learner. She is bright and was consistently well prepared. She is also an excellent researcher and approaches each issue logically and without bias.

At Tacoma, she was focused on the import of her education. I recall one quarter when she was in the hospital, and she attended class (via zoom) and participated from her hospital bed. I was impressed by her determination.

Another real strength is her ability to work outside the campus and with different marginalized community groups. In this endeavor, she has been both tireless and effective. As you know, she was recognized by the state of Washington for her community engagement.

She is a self-starter, possesses strong thinking and oral communication skills. These are a real strength in her favor. Karen also listens well and collaborates effectively (in this case, on group projects) with others. For example, during spring quarter, she ably assisted Emory Otso in developing a very effective project on how doctors, hospitals, public agencies can better identify and better serve people with hidden disabilities.

Although the group project had several students, Karen and Emory completed the bulk of the work.

As to her writing skills, she has improved as a result of her focus on improving this key skill set. With appropriate support, I firmly believe she can meet the enhanced requisites of graduate school.

Karen stood out in the incredibly diverse Tacoma program setting, working effectively with different groups and producing excellent outcomes. In her dealings with other students, she was always polite and generous with her time.

She was open and respectful in her dealings with fellow students, faculty, and staff. Her group project peers respected her input; faculty members and staff respected her intelligence, diligence, and sincerity.

Karen is a strong candidate for a slot in the MPA Program. She has the skills and determination needed to succeed at this next academic level. I recommend her to you.

Please feel free to contact me bachop@evergreen.edu if you have further questions.