

Application Related Information

Application: Application Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Michael McDaniel
Recommenders Institution: Northwest Indian College
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓
Received Date: 06/26/2024 02:37 PM
Recommendation Type: General
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000118925993

Recommenders Title: Faculty
Contact Name: Kealoha Kalama
Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Status: Received
Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant without reservation.
Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	4 years	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	See letter attached.
Time since last contact with applicant:	One week	Applicant as productive member of group:	See letter attached.
Relationship with Applicant:	Instructor	Applicant most significant strengths:	See letter attached.
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.radiu>

Other Information

Created Time: 06/25/2024 10:36 AM
Modified Time: 06/26/2024 02:37 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier
Modified By: Josephine Bernier

NORTHWEST INDIAN

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COLLEGE

Through education, Northwest Indian College promotes Indigenous self-determination and knowledge

June 26th, 2024

To the selection committee:

I write to you today to highly recommend Kealoha "Kiki" Kalama for acceptance to the Masters in Public Administration (MPA) Program at Evergreen State College. I have worked with Kiki as a member of the faculty at Northwest Indian College in the Tribal Governance and Business Management (TGBM) Program. I work with students to teach and learn from them how to make good evidence-based decisions. It is our hope that when we make decisions today, we do so in consideration of the impacts both on our own lives but also on those who share their lives with us now and in the future.

I work with students throughout their upper division coursework to develop, conduct and present community-action research projects as a requirement of the degree program. Kiki arrived to the program with the experience of working both within and outside of her tribal community. She understands how things work in Indian Country and spent her time at NWIC imagining in what new directions tribes may go as they continue to self-determine their futures. Kiki understands what it means to critically engage with Native communities in order solve the problems of today through collaboration with both native and non-native stakeholders. She works to learn of the importance of strategic, long-term economic development and governmental planning as a means to rebuilding native nations and communities.

Kiki demonstrates she understands how to effectively communicate and lead through changing and challenging times. She became more skilled and adept at understanding how to critically analyze legal, economic, and public administration systems. She leverages the value of place-based knowledge systems to gain a deeper understanding of the human interests driving the decision-making behaviors of communities struggling to rebuild themselves after nearly 300 years under the control of others. Systems of governance require the legitimacy of the constituents and the cultural legitimacy of place in order to work effectively. Kiki pushes herself to learn how to ask the right questions in order to draw on the knowledge of others to offer sound choices for creating a livable future for members of tribal communities.

Kiki arrived to the NWIC learning community with a strong skillset and continued to build and develop deeper understandings of how to move US tribal communities forward within the critical stages of the 21st century. She demonstrates a strong will to learn and grow as a student. Kiki thinks about others and their needs and works to find ways to build community systems that make life livable in communities with historic economic deprivation. Survivors learn to think adaptively to understand the

realities of today in order to create achievable tomorrows. Kiki has demonstrated she will continue to grow as a student, a professional and a tribal leader. Supporting her and her work now is a strong investment in the future of tribal communities.

Kiki's excellent academic performance in the Tribal Governance and Business Management degree program demonstrates her ability to set goals and achieve them as a well-rounded, prepared and hard-working student. I see in Kiki a level of dedication and performance that sets her apart from her peers in her level of drive. She has emerged as a leader among the students at NWIC. She excelled across academic disciplines. She understands the career pathway she has set for herself, to pursue a pathway towards an advanced business degree from a framework of doing business in Indian Country. Kiki plans to find ways to bring sustainable economic growth to tribal communities. A daunting task for anyone but I understand Kiki to be committed to her goal and I look forward to witnessing her accomplishments.

Please contact me at your convenience if you have any further questions.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. K. McDaniel".

Michael K. McDaniel, TGBM Faculty, 608.695.3143, mmcdaniel@nwic.edu.