Application Related Information

Application:	Application Not Verified	Iteration Name:	202510_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MPA	Program Name:	MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Peter Sabian	Recommenders Title:	Attorney
Recommenders Institution:	Thurston County Public Defense	Contact Name:	Niles McDonald
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:	12/13/2023 05:47 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000112460566	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	2.5 years	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:	Niles learned a new job with the State Disability Rights in a matter of weeks. I am sure that he knows how to absorb new information and put it to practice with ease.
Time since last contact with applicant:	today	Applicant as productive member of group:	Niles has a ton of friends and acquaintances from different backgrounds. He is always able to communicate with people to find common ground.
Relationship with Applicant:	close friend/former co-worker	Applicant most significant strengths:	Niles knows when to speak up and when it to scan the room first. He is extremely intelligent, and knows how to always get the job done.
Ability to complete rigourous 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: | 11/28/2023 08:51 PM | | Created By: | Josephine Bernier |
| Modified Time: | 12/13/2023 05:47 PM | | Modified By: | Josephine Bernier |

December 13, 2023

Re: Letter of reference for Niles McDonald

Dear members of the Admission Committee of the Evergreen State College:

My name is Peter Sabian, and I am recommending that Niles be admitted to your institution for the Master in Public Administration Program. Currently, I am student with the Evergreen for the same program. I hope that Niles can benefit from it as well by becoming an even more productive member of our community.

When I first moved to Washington State in the summer of 2021 to work as a public defender in Thurston County, I did not know anyone other than my co-workers. Within the first couple of weeks of my employment, Niles continuously checked in on me, gave me valuable information about what to expect with this job, invited me to social events, introduced me to folks, and helped me get out of my bubble. I saw Niles zealously, competently, and ethically represent a ton of our indigent population in Thurston County.

When my father was dying of cancer in 2022, Niles was there for me to help me cope with that trauma. When I got deployed overseas with the U.S. Army in early 2023, for months Niles helped my immigrant spouse who was stranded in a remote part of Thurston County, by driving her to and from grocery shops, by introducing her to his friends and loved ones, by showing her around Olympia, by taking her to and from and immigration appointments, and by giving her the emotional support that I was not able to give. To this day, Niles continues to help my spouse and myself expand our network in Washington State and for that, we are forever grateful. He continues to broaden his knowledge by reading books, listening to podcasts, being appraised of current events, and by seeking and providing legal input whenever we discuss legal

issues. One of the things that I admire Niles for is that he thinks before he speaks. And when he says something, he means it, and can back it up.

Niles currently works for the State of Washington and helps safeguard rights of disabled Washingtonians that are often taken advantage of by their guardians. He also works part time as a pro tem judge. As you may already know, he is also an alum of the Evergreen State College, and has earned a Bachelor's degree about 10 years ago. He goes above and beyond as a professional and as a friend.

Once Niles complete the MPA program, he will have one more tool to make the world a better place. It is my sincere hope that you will help him accomplish that by admitting him into the program.

Sincerely,

Peter Sabian

Peter Sabian