

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Yoshie Sano
Recommenders Institution: Washington State University
Vancouver

Recommenders Title: Academic Director and
Professor

Contact Name:
Jillian Morris

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: 02/05/2024 09:52 PM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of
Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000117501362

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant: 2 years +
Time since last contact with applicant: 6 months
Relationship with Applicant: College professor
Ability to complete rigorous grad program: Excellent
Communication Skills - Oral: Outstanding
Service: Outstanding
Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:
Ability to handle stress: Outstanding
Ability to analyze/problem solve: Excellent
Openness to feedback: Outstanding
Ability to work in a team: Outstanding

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Please see the attached
letter.
Applicant as productive member of group: Please see the attached
letter.
Applicant most significant strengths: Please see the attached
letter.
Responsibility/reliability: Excellent
Communication skills - written: Excellent
Ability to work independently: Excellent
Ability to think critically: Excellent
Ability to think creatively: Outstanding
Potential for leadership: Excellent
Personal/professional reflection: Outstanding

Description Information

Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radius>

Other Information

Created Time: 01/30/2024 03:33 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 02/05/2024 09:52 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

January 27, 2024

The Graduate Program Selection Committee Members
Master of Public Administration
The Evergreen State College

Dr. Selection Committee members,

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of support for Jillian Morris who is applying for the Master of Public Administration with the Tribal Governance Track at the Evergreen State College. I have known Jillian since Fall 2021 as a college instructor and research supervisor at Washington State University Vancouver. I have had various interactions with her and feel I know her well enough to speak about her academic competency, commitment to Tribal communities, and her mature personality.

I first noticed Jillian's passion to improve the lives of disadvantaged populations—especially those in Tribal communities—when she enrolled in my class, *Families in Poverty*. Witnessing her academic competence and profound interest in the well-being of marginalized families, I invited her to join my research project. While Jillian excelled as an undergraduate student, initially, my expectations were modest, anticipating her assistance with simple tasks to facilitate the team's progress. This was because my research is intricate, involving meticulous analyses of qualitative interviews from multiple U.S. states, communication with Principal Investigators in other land grant universities, and collaboration with a doctoral student. Based on my past experiences, it was reasonable to expect that an undergraduate student who had not been previously engaged in research might not make significant contributions.

However, Jillian defied my expectations. Her initial assignment involved reviewing multiple interview transcripts detailing the family health experiences of rural, low-income mothers in Florida, Kentucky, and Washington, and creating family profiles for each case. These interview transcripts, averaging 20 pages for each interview, presented a considerable challenge. Yet, Jillian adeptly identified key issues faced by these families and systematically organized the information by applying Family Stress Theory.

Impressed by her exceptional work, Jillian was subsequently invited to play a key role in the qualitative analysis process. This included developing coding schemes, applying codes

to approximately 30 interview transcripts, and ensuring inter-coder reliability. The analysis proved to be complex, given that qualitative methodology entails an ongoing dialogue between theory and data. Coders were free to suggest changes or additions to coding schemes throughout the process. Jillian swiftly evolved into a valuable team member, not only conducting analysis but also assuming a leadership role in coordinating multiple meetings, facilitating discussions, establishing final coding schemes, and identifying major themes within and across codes. Jillian's leadership, mature personality, and collegiality significantly enriched our research project.

By the time of her graduation, Jillian had delivered presentations at various conferences at the campus, regional, and national levels—a remarkable achievement for an individual who had not yet earned a master's degree. Below is a list of her presentations, underscoring her impressive contributions. Currently, our research team is in the process of writing two manuscripts which will be submitted to peer-reviewed journals, with Jillian rightfully earning authorship in these scholarly works. Upon concluding her education at Washington State University Vancouver, she graduated with honors, receiving *Magna Cum Laude* distinction, alongside the *Outstanding Human Development Senior Award*.

- **Morris, J.**, Kaur, P., Big Eagle, T., & Sano, Y. (April, 2022). *Agency and access to healthcare in rural America*. Poster presentation at the annual campus Research Showcase, Washington State University Vancouver, WA.
- Big Eagle, Sano, Y., Arreola, H., **Morris, J.**, & Kaur, P. (October, 2022). “*We do what we have to make do*”: *Agency and access to healthcare in rural Communities*. Oral presentation at the annual meeting of Co-Occurring Disorders and Treatment conference, Yakima, WA.
- Kaur, P., Big Eagle, T. R., **Morris, J.**, & Sano Y. (November, 2022). *Healthcare inequities in rural America*. Oral presentation at the annual meeting of Northwest Council on Family Relations. Virtual conference.
- Arreola, H., Big Eagle, T., **Morris, J.**, Kaur, P., & Yoshie Sano. (April, 2023). *Fighting to thrive: Overcoming healthcare barriers with resilience*. Poster presentation at the annual campus Research Showcase, Washington State University Vancouver, WA.
- Big Eagle, T., Arreola, H., **Morris, J.**, & Sano, Y. (October, 2023). *Empowering Latinx mothers: Confronting healthcare barriers in rural communities*. Poster presentation at the annual meeting of SACNAS National Diversity in STEM conference, Portland, OR.

- Sano, Y. Big Eagle, T., **Morris, J.** Arreola, H., & Dyk, P. (November, 2023). *Remember this, our favorite town: Agency and access to healthcare in rural communities*. Remote paper presentation at the annual meeting of National Council on Family Relations, Orland, FL.

In conclusion, I am confident that Jillian is well-prepared to commence a master's program at the Evergreen State College. Given her strong commitment and dedication, I am certain she will excel in the MPA program and make significant contributions to enhancing the well-being of Tribal communities. I wholeheartedly recommend Jillian for full consideration in her application. Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact me at yoshie_sano@wsu.edu.

Sincerely,



Yoshie Sano, Ph.D.

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