

---

**Application Related Information**

---

Application: Application Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202510\_GR\_G  
Program Name: MPA

---

**Recommendation Information**

---

Recommended By: Niles McDonald  
Recommenders Institution: DSHS - Adult Protective  
Services  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to  
review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Legal Benefits Advisor

Contact Name:  
Jesse Pestana

Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to  
review this recommendation.

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date:  
03/28/2024 11:26 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant  
without reservation.

Recommendation Type:  
General

Recommender Form: MPA Letter of  
Recommendation/Form

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000118115873

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

---

**Recommender Form Questions**

---

How long have you known  
applicant:  
see attachment

Applicant ability as  
self-directed learner: Ideal, he is a capable  
autodidactic and is self  
directed. See attachment.

Time since last contact with  
applicant:  
Minutes?

Applicant as productive  
member of group: The guy got a Navy service  
medal for improving  
productivity across his  
workgroup. He'll do great.

Relationship with Applicant:  
see attachment

Applicant most significant  
strengths: He'll do exceptionally. See  
attachment.

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: 03/27/2024 02:30 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 03/28/2024 11:26 AM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

800 Alta St. SW, APT C-103,  
Olympia, WA 98502  
[360.929.4010 - Niles.McDonald@Gmail.com](mailto:Niles.McDonald@Gmail.com)

---

**March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Dear Evergreen Admissions Review Board,  
**Re: Letter of Recommendation for Jesse Pestana**

I write to recommend Jesse's application for admission to the Evergreen State College Master's in Public Administration. I have known Jesse for over fourteen years since meeting during our undergraduate studies at Evergreen. In that time he has been a classmate, a roommate, a friend, and a trusted advisor. I can attest to his character, capacity, and suitability for this program.

Jesse's dedication to social justice is admirable. He consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to addressing social inequities through volunteer work and advocacy efforts and has a particular skill for discussing matters of equity, privilege and justice with individuals with varying and oppositional perspectives. I have watched him convince such parties to reconsider their positions. Jesse has a marked capacity for analytical reasoning and easily breaks down complex issues. He takes on challenges with an approach that holds logic and empathy in equal measure and succeeds at any task he sets himself to.

I have found Jesse to be a skilled and competent writer. I have personally benefited from his input when writing on complex topics of law and policy, and regularly seek his advice on such matters. His keen eye for detail and iron grasp on reasoning have been useful in critiquing and improving my own legal and academic writing.

Jesse's resilience to adversity and heartbreak are a testament to his character. Despite encountering great loss, he perseveres with a positive energy and supportive mindset in all of his interactions. The challenges of a master's degree will not cause Jesse to stumble.

I firmly believe that Jesse's passion, analytical capacity, adroit communication, and resilience place him as an ideal candidate for this program. I am confident that he will thrive academically and contribute positively to Evergreen's community and to the MPA cohort.

Thank you for considering Jesse's application. Contact me should you require further information.

With Warmth and Good Cheer,  
Niles Devore McDonald, Esq.