

#### Application Related Information

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Application: Application Verified  
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

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

#### Recommendation Information

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Recommended By: Kari Johnson  
Recommenders Institution: Washington Department of Ecology  
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.  
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Environmental Planner 4

Contact Name: Matthew Ragsdale

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

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 11/27/2023 09:09 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000112297023

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

#### Recommender Form Questions

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

#### Description Information

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Description:

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

#### Other Information

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Created Time: 11/15/2023 12:03 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 01/22/2024 01:44 PM

Modified By: Shalimar Pedersen

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Kari Johnson, and it is with pleasure that I offer my letter of recommendation for Matthew (Matt) Ragsdale to the master's degree program.

I'm an Environmental Planner 4 and an Air Quality Program grant coordinator at the Washington State Department of Ecology. One of our grants involved the huge task of reducing ozone through a commute trip program (CTR) in the Tri-Cities area. The grant to Ben Franklin Transit allowed for the hire of an FTE to manage the project at a local level. Matt Ragsdale was brought on, and we couldn't have asked for a better candidate. Matt brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in CTR practice and community outreach, and he hit the ground running. Despite the daunting task, Matt was enthusiastic, and he had excellent new ideas for making the CTR ridership experience easier for the community. He designed and managed a successful commuter incentive program – the first of its kind for Ecology's Air Quality Program. Since the grant relied heavily on metrics, Matt was outstanding at providing quarterly reports, analyzing the complex data of ozone precursors with saved ridership miles, and translating it into number of emissions reduced. His work made a difference in keeping ozone at bay in the Tri-Cities, ultimately lessening the area's risk of a federal nonattainment designation.

Once thing that really impressed me about Matt was when a Tri-Cities newspaper interviewed me for a story about local ozone reduction efforts. I knew Matt would have the better insight from a community level, so Matt agreed to speak with the journalist as well. When I read the article, I was very pleased with Matt's well-spoken ability to tell the story, support the goal of the grant, and stress the importance of air health in the Tri-Cities. He sounded as if he'd been doing this work for years.

With that, I give Matthew my highest recommendation. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Kari

**Kari Johnson**, Air Quality Prevent Nonattainment Coordinator  
Washington Department of Ecology  
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Available in MS Teams (call, video, & chat)

