

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Cynthia Toop
Recommenders Institution: Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Grant Writer
Contact Name: Iris Thomas
Recommendation Waiver Choice: I do not waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 01/06/2024 08:41 PM
Recommendation Type: General
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000116925661

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.
Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

Almost 6 months.

Time since last contact with applicant:

1 day

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Upon assuming the role of Tribal Climate Resilience Coordinator, Risa quickly identified the knowledge she needed to direct the five departments under her purview. She held team meetings to learn about the ongoing projects and identified the necessary initiatives to relocate the entire Tribal Village.

Applicant as productive member of group: Thanks to her position, the five departments essential to developing the infrastructure for the relocation village are now unified. In less than six months, she has coordinated the departments at an unprecedented level, leading to multi-million-dollar projects that will lay the foundation for the community's development.

Relationship with Applicant:		Applicant most significant strengths:	Risa embodies all the attributes of a great leader within the Tribe. Her leadership skills are her most significant strength, although she has many other strengths as well. I have worked as a professional grant writer for tribal governments for 18 years. I believe that my years of experience provides an insight to recognize Risa as a professional with great talent.
	Co-worker		
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.radius.com/
Other Information			
Created Time:	01/05/2024 09:19 AM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	01/06/2024 08:41 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier

Cynthia Toop
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cynthiatoop@gmail.com
1/6/24

Puanani Nihoa, MPA
MPA Assistant Director
MPA Program
The Evergreen State College

Dear Puanani Nihoa, MPA,

I am writing to recommend Risa Thomas for admission to the Evergreen State College MPA program. I have had the pleasure of working with Risa where she has served as the Tribal Climate Resilience Coordinator. During this time, I have been consistently impressed by her work ethic, fairness, and leadership qualities.

Risa embodies all the attributes of a great leader within the Tribe. She tackled all the challenges of bringing five departments together to accomplish the high-quality results she consistently produces. She achieved this through the ability to work collaboratively with others on complex projects. The Tribe is in the process of developing a relocation community due to climate change and coastal hazards. Risa is responsible for this project, directing five departments to develop and construct the infrastructure needed to support the housing, government services, and business. During the six months under her direction, the Tribe is now moving forward with multi-million-dollar projects which had stalled for quite some time before her arrival.

I am confident that Risa would be an excellent addition to the Evergreen State College MPA program. She has the skills, experience, and drive to succeed in the program and make valuable contributions to the school community. Her knowledge gained in the MPA program will greatly serve the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe's future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Toop".

Cynthia Toop