

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Kyle Pittman
Recommenders Institution: NATIVE Pathways Program
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Received Date: 04/01/2024 08:49 PM

Recommendation Type: General

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000117881494

Recommenders Title: Faculty

Contact Name: Joseph Utzler

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

Recommendation Status: Received

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:

5 years

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Joseph is certainly capable of being a self-directed learner, provided there is enough structure to direct him toward the goals he needs to meet. Joseph is a "big picture" thinker and sometimes needs to be reminded of the need to accomplish the more meticulous tasks, though this statement should not be taken as an indication that he is not detailed-oriented. His various cultural roles outside of academic settings has taught him how to accomplish big and small tasks with care, but the academic nature of work can sometimes hinder his desire to push through it to achieve the bigger ticket items. His level of dedication, though, cannot be understated and he will adapt to new situations to meet expectations.

Time since last contact with applicant:		Applicant as productive member of group:	Joseph is very gregarious and is able to communicate with just about anyone to build relationships. I have not experienced too many instances of him working in groups outside of seminar and other collaborative-type discussions, but I do not doubt his ability to be a productive member so long as he is given clear direction. He is a relationship-builder. That is key to any productive group setting.
	Several days		
Relationship with Applicant:		Applicant most significant strengths:	Joseph's most significant and relevant strengths are his critical thinking abilities, comprehension, and dedication to community service. Joseph has routinely impressed me with his attention to detail and ability to grasp complex topics with little explanation from faculty. He strives to support his communities and recognizes the value in others, thus beckoning toward the public service aspect of this program. And through his lived experiences, Joseph is very adept at facing new challenges.
	Fellow student, then professor		
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Very Good	Responsibility/reliability:	Above Average
Communication Skills - Oral:	Excellent	Communication skills - written:	Above Average
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Outstanding	Ability to work independently:	Very Good
Ability to handle stress:	Excellent	Ability to think critically:	Outstanding
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Outstanding	Ability to think creatively:	Excellent
Openness to feedback:	Outstanding	Potential for leadership:	Outstanding
Ability to work in a team:	Very Good	Personal/professional reflection:	Very Good

Description Information

Description:

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

Other Information

Created Time: 02/29/2024 06:22 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 04/01/2024 08:49 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



Date: April 1, 2024

RE: Letter of Recommendation for
Joseph Utzler

To the Master of Public Administration Admissions Committee,

My name is Kyle Pittman and I am a Member of the Faculty at The Evergreen State College where I am assigned to teach with the Native Pathways Program. I am writing this letter of recommendation for **Joseph Utzler** to support his application for admission to the Master of Public Administration program at The Evergreen State College.

I first met Joseph Utzler when I was a student in the Native Pathways Program (NPP). He joined the program during my senior year and I was quickly drawn to him as someone who was both culturally knowledgeable and highly motivated in life. I did not work closely with Joseph at this time, though I recall that he was regularly present for class and willing to accept the rigor of the program.

Later on, Joseph would rejoin the NPP after I had been appointed as a faculty member. Thus, I observed his capabilities, not as a fellow peer, but as someone tasked with evaluating his performance. Among his strongest qualities are his tenacity and ability to communicate with people on a genuine level. Joseph is a highly critical thinker who attempts to move beyond the boundaries set in class to examine the deeper elements of prompts, assignments, and questions. He has a keenness that I have not witnessed in many other students as he perceptively understood the underlying objectives for various tasks in class. Joseph was always willing to work with other students in collaborative settings and was a true team player. He always made others feel comfortable enough in the learning community in a way that allowed them to share their experiences in a reaffirming way.

Joseph was also always willing to accept feedback and points of correction. He brings a lot of lived experience and traditional Indigenous knowledge to the table which enrich the learning



experiences of those around him, though he recognizes that his academic abilities—primarily around writing and formal research—could be improved upon and often seeks to work with faculty to find direction. I have personally instructed Joseph on some assignments and have observed marked progress in his studies.

Another vital thing to note is that Joseph is a deeply committed individual. He sees the good in others and desires to support them in whatever endeavor they may be engaged in, regularly volunteering his time to support others and connect them to his network of peers. He has also volunteered on numerous occasions to support the NPP during class sessions, social events, and even in cultural roles that require immense responsibility. Because of this, I believe Joseph's qualities as an individual truly align with the mission of public service. Joseph has the drive and adaptability necessary to be successful. That being said, there is another point for improvement to be made known, particularly around his ability to follow through on academic coursework. With firm guidance and institutional resource support, Joseph can certainly be successful in a program like this. His critical and creative thinking abilities and overall comprehension are strong, though he does need explicit direction from time to time.

Therefore, it is my honor to recommend Joseph be accepted into the Master of Public Administration program. If there are any questions, please reach out to me with the contact information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Pittman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kyle Pittman, MPA

Member of the Faculty
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