

Application Related Information

Application: Application Incomplete
Grad Program Applying To: MPA

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MPA

Recommendation Information

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

Recommenders Title: Policy & Technical Support Supervisory
Contact Name: Jenny Word
Recommendation Waiver Choice: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.
Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 02/12/2024 04:59 PM
Recommendation Type: General
Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000117635730

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.
Recommender Form: MPA Letter of Recommendation/Form
Recommendation Owner: Shalimar Pedersen

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

10 months

Applicant ability as self-directed learner: Jenny is a very self-directed learner. She joined the Ecology's Policy & Tech Support Unit in TCP in the Spring of 2023 to work on a large legislative report. Jenny took the initiative and immediately reviewed & researched all relevant information she could to do an excellent job. She also reached out to coworkers to learn from them.

Time since last contact with
applicant:

Applicant as productive
member of group:

As of October 2023, Jenny has become the project manager for a team leading the second phase of efforts to amend the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) regulations. She is responsible for coordinating team members, keeping the group on task and on schedule, working with and soliciting feedback from staff throughout Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP). She has done a fantastic job in this role keeping all of us on track. She also serves on two other TCP workgroups. The first includes our Tribal engagement workgroup that is working to implement new tribal outreach requirements outlined in the amended MTCA regulation during our first rulemaking. Jenny is an integral part of this workgroup. She offers constructive feedback and input during our meetings and reviews, edits, and helps develop guidance to ensure meaningful tribal engagement for Ecology's contaminated site cleanup projects. We also selected Jenny to join TCP's Environmental Justice (EJ) implementation workgroup. This team will work to develop program guidance to implement amendments to MTCA regarding EJ. Lastly, Jenny is part of Ecology's Cultural Resources workgroup. Jenny volunteered to join this workgroup so she can keep apprised of how Ecology works to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources during Ecology projects. This work also develops policy on how we consult with Tribes, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and other stakeholders on projects

I've talked with Jenny today.

that may impact cultural resources.

Relationship with Applicant:

Applicant most significant strengths:

Jenny is very detail oriented, evidenced by her success serving as project manager for the second phase of the MTCA rulemaking. Jenny also works well under pressure. She completed, with TCP's Fiscal Unit, the draft MTCA report of expenditures for the 2021-2023 biennium under a compressed schedule. Jenny surpassed all of our expectations in providing an excellent report in a under a tight timeline. Lastly, Jenny is an effective and empathetic communicator. She is an active listener and strives to understand other points of view. She proves this everyday as she works individually with other people or as part of a team. These skills are critical as we progress with our second MTCA rulemaking, during which Jenny will work with not only internal Ecology staff, but also with the MTCA Stakeholder and Tribal Advisory Group to come to consensus on the next phase of amendments.

I'm Jenny's direct supervisor

Ability to complete rigorous grad program: Outstanding

Responsibility/reliability: Outstanding

Communication Skills - Oral: Outstanding

Communication skills - written: Excellent

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: 02/12/2024 02:04 PM

Created By: Shalimar Pedersen

Modified Time: 02/12/2024 04:59 PM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

Sarah Wollwage

Policy & Technical Support Unit Manager, Toxics Cleanup Program, WA Department of Ecology
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February 12, 2024

Graduate Admissions
Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, WA 98505

Dear Graduate Admissions Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Jenny Word's application for admittance to your Master of Public Administration program. I am Jenny's supervisor in the Policy & Technical Support Unit within the Washington States Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) and have worked with her for the past 10 months.

Jenny first came to TCP as a temporary project-specific hire in April 2023 from Ecology's Hazardous Waste and Reduction Program. We hired Jenny to manage the development of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Report of Expenditures for the 2021-2023 biennium. Jenny wrote sections of the 250-page report and compiled, reviewed, and edited all other sections of the report. She worked closely with staff in TCP's Fiscal Unit, Ecology's Financial Services Office, and our Agency Legislative Coordinator to ensure the development of a high-quality document within a very tight timeframe. This was a huge effort on Jenny's part, and she did a truly excellent job.

During her first months with TCP, it became clear to me and everyone Jenny worked with that she was a self-starter who could process a lot of new information in a short period of time to produce an excellent work product. We quickly hired her in a full-time, permanent position to manage the second phase of TCP's efforts to amend the MTCA regulations. In this position, Jenny is responsible for managing our core MTCA rule workgroup, as well as our larger program MTCA rule workgroup. She keeps the group on task and on schedule, working with and soliciting feedback from staff throughout Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP). She has done a fantastic job in this role keeping all of us on track. As we move forward with the second phase of rulemaking, Jenny will also coordinate with Ecology staff, staff from other agencies, and the MTCA Stakeholder and Tribal Advisory Group to come to consensus on the next phase of the MTCA regulation amendments.

Jenny also works on several workgroups to implement requirements from the last phase of MTCA regulation amendments. She participates in our Tribal engagement implementation workgroup, our environmental justice implementation workgroup, and our disproportionate cost analysis implementation workgroup. Her contributions to these workgroups are highly valued by me and our coworkers.

I believe Jenny is an exceptional fit for Evergreen's Master of Public Administration program. She proves everyday she comes to work that she is truly dedicated to public service for the benefit of all.

Thank you,
Sarah Wollwage