

Statement of Purpose

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Applicant, MPA

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I have spent most of my life employed in the public service sector, more than 20 years in the United States Army, and more than 8 years as a Thurston County Deputy Sheriff. After returning from a deployment to Afghanistan in 2014, I was looking for additional ways to serve my community and discovered that the Thurston County Sheriff's Office had a reserve deputy program. This program allowed community members to attend a state-certified training program and volunteer hours in the community as a Sheriff's Deputy. I spent approximately 6 years donating my time in this capacity while working as a Soldier until my retirement from the Army in 2021, when I transitioned to work as a full-time deputy.

An intense interest in public service and in successful government operations at the county and state levels is what led me to seek out a Master's in Public Administration. Evergreen State College Masters in Public Administration program immediately struck me as an amazing opportunity full of knowledgeable staff, a program centered on inclusive and effective solutions to community problems, and Evergreen State College is an integral part of the local community I cherish. The opportunity to study alongside neighbors (we all live together on this planet even if we are not in the same city, state, or nation) who are likewise striving to improve themselves in an effort to improve our community and society was exactly what I was looking for.

Throughout my time in the United States Army, I served in several postings which included the development and implementation of solutions to overcome problems plaguing

different communities. I have been involved in several complex challenges of delivering services to a population, including planning, and participating in the effective distribution of humanitarian and building materials to help rebuild in the wake of car bombs in Iraq to the management of logistics and life support for the US military and family members on the southern tip of the peninsula of South Korea. I have participated in teams that planned and successfully implemented disaster response and preparedness plans as well as been a direct responder to countless situations.

My training and experience include attendance at several US Army leadership schools, FEMA Emergency Management week-long course with a capstone project, and attendance at Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission Basic and Reserve Police Officer Academies. I was able to balance my service in the Army effectively and my service to the community as a reserve deputy earn my undergraduate degree, majoring in Criminal Justice and Political Science in July of 2019. I went on to earn my Master's in Criminal Justice in May of 2021 prior to retiring from the Army.

Being a member of a community is more than being able to extract things for oneself and I believe it is critical to give back or improve things for the greater good. I do my best to embody this philosophy by contributing in both monetary and non-monetary ways. One of the ways I have been able to contribute is by dedicating numerous hours to the removal of litter from several roadways in Thurston County, in the 2021-2022 timeframe my family and I removed approximately 2,000 pounds of litter.

Most think of the term bureaucracy in a negative light and place blame on the on government's inefficiencies or shortcomings when the service they receive is lackluster, or the

processes are difficult to navigate. I have experienced the effectiveness of a properly implemented bureaucracy led by those interested in effectively administering a government program or non-profit. I firmly believe the role of government and systems is to serve each and every citizen in an efficient and effective way which can be done only with the proper oversight and administration.

I am excited about the opportunity to apply for the Evergreen State College Master of Public Administration, and should I be accepted relish the chance to expand my knowledge and skill set. I look forward to being able to take the extremely valuable information contained in this program and apply it within our community to improve the systems and bureaucracy that serve all our citizens. Change can be one of the most significant challenges individuals, groups, and systems can face, but being part of positive change that improves lives are challenges worth tackling. Thank you for your consideration and time.