For over six years, I have been working in residential trauma-informed care, which has been incredibly rewarding. One of the critical aspects is the recognition that many individuals struggling with addiction have experienced trauma in their lives, and this trauma can contribute to their addiction. By providing a safe and supportive environment designed to address the unique needs of individuals who have experienced trauma, trauma-informed care programs can help individuals heal from their past experiences and develop the skills and tools they need to overcome their addiction. This comprehensive approach to care can help individuals to build a strong foundation for recovery and to develop the skills and support they need to overcome their addiction and achieve lasting success in their recovery journey.

Responsibilities include developing goals and objectives for the plant program for the annual report and organizing and managing a calendar of planned activities to achieve these outcomes within the projected budget. Establishing timelines to ensure the garden program is appropriately staffed and coordinating with other department supervisors. In addition to these responsibilities, other priorities include the development of an annual budget to support the plant program and keeping a record of expenditures. One of the most rewarding aspects of this position has been the opportunity to develop curricula for Native plant classes in relationship to DBT Skills (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) and present these classes to patients and in multiple community settings. To include the development of curricula for external and multi-tribal/organizational presentations, allowing me to share my knowledge and experience with a broader audience.

Evergreen's public policy program will give me a deeper understanding of the policy and regulatory environment I work and collaborate with personally and professionally. By studying topics such as policy analysis, public finance, and public management, I will better understand the challenges and opportunities in the addiction services field and be better equipped to navigate this complex landscape. The MPA program will help me to develop the skills and knowledge I need to be a more effective leader and advocate for the individuals I serve. By studying topics such as leadership, strategic planning, and communication, I will gain the tools and knowledge I need to advocate for my clients and work effectively with policymakers and other stakeholders to improve the services and support available to individuals struggling with addiction. There will be more opportunities to network and collaborate with other professionals in the addiction services field. By participating in internships, case studies, and other experiential learning opportunities, I will have the chance to learn from and work with other professionals passionate about improving addiction services. I can share my experiences and expertise to drive positive change in the field.

As a graduate of Evergreen's Native Pathways program, I am excited to continue my academic journey by pursuing graduate study in public administration. The Native Pathways program provided me with a unique and transformative educational experience that has prepared me to take on the challenges of the public sector and work towards making a positive impact in my community. Evergreen's liberal approach to education and its strong community of students, faculty, and alumni are key reasons why I am interested in pursuing graduate study in public administration at this institution. The support and

mentorship of this community will be essential to my continued success and educational journey. As a Native American, I am particularly interested in pursuing a career in public administration that will allow me to serve the needs of my community and promote policies and practices that are all-inclusive to break down barriers and support all communities. Continuing a career focused on positively impacting diverse communities and ensuring that individuals have access to the necessary services and resources to survive and thrive.

The MPA program at Evergreen aligns with my values and career goals. The program's commitment to embracing diversity, valuing fairness and equity, advocating powerfully on behalf of the public, and imagining new possibilities to accomplish positive change in our workplaces and communities resonates strongly with me. As someone who has always been passionate about social justice and making a positive impact in my community, the program's focus on promoting fairness and equity holds great value and interest. It is crucial to ensure that all individuals have access to opportunities and resources, regardless of their background or circumstances. Advocating powerfully on behalf of the public and promoting policies and practices that support fairness and equity is particularly appealing. When we embrace diversity, it enriches our workplaces and communities, which is essential to creating policies and practices that are equitable and inclusive. Challenging the status quo and seeking new and innovative solutions to our challenges is vital. Encouraging creativity and innovation is essential to driving positive change.

Evergreen's commitment to values aligns with my passion, which promotes fairness, equity, diversity, and innovation. The MPA program will provide me with the knowledge, skills, and support to positively impact my community and career. Evergreen created an influential academic in me with my undergraduate education, and I look forward to the height I will soar in this graduate program.