

Dear master's in public administration,

I am Brianna Johnson, a first-generation college graduate. After completing my Associates of the Arts Degree, I chose to apply for & attend The Evergreen State College because I wanted to attend a school where I could make a difference all while still being me. My original plan was to follow a path towards a career in teaching Criminal Justice, though, I have learned through my journey of school the system is broken & the only way to change that is to learn, grow, & help enforce that change.

While at Evergreen for my undergraduate studies, I fell in love with the Native Pathways Program and could not imagine a life without it. It taught me the true meaning of values, and proved to me with dedication, change in systems can happen. NPP showed me the power that a person has & why learning is so important

While at this place of education I have also had the honor to participate in administrative activities and policy development as a member of the Geoduck Student Union as the Communication Liaison & the Student Activities Board as Office Manager & The NPP Student Government as the Secretary, taking meeting minutes. These experiences have led me to a curiosity of what the possibilities are of serving others through public administration. I hope to learn all that I can about administrative & policy issues & to obtain skills needed to make informed public policy choices.

Throughout my current career as a Maintenance Operations Administrative Assistant for the US Postal Service, I worked to expand the accessibility of information for members of the rural communities, who have less access to US Postal Service information & knowledge. These experiences have allowed me to understand how individual corporations, especially non-profits, develop, employ, and are affected by policies that the US Postal Service has put in place. Being able to witness these processes has shown me that public administration is important. Having the opportunity to also volunteer for public policy groups like Civil Survival has also driven me to see why policies are of such importance. If they were not, people like Tarra Simmons never would have been able to go from Felon to, a Washington State Representative.

The Evergreen State College Master of Public Administration Program is my top choice among state MPA (Master of Public Administration) programs for several reasons. I believe the focus on specific topics within the broad range of the applications in public administration & the ability to experience several different topics are an important aspect of learning, to help provide me the tools to be the best possible leader for not only myself, but others as I go on to hopefully teach at the college level myself. The Master of Public Administration is a program that will allow me to expand my knowledge as a state employee. This program will further allow me to develop my analytical and leadership skills. As someone who works with various students across

the country, expanding upon my analytical skills will allow me to be better equipped in the areas of communication among high school students looking for a college to attend for themselves. The MPA program will allow me the tools to better support diversity. Becoming a student in the Master of Public Administration program will give me new tools to help impact future generations of incoming students from in and around the country.

My education means everything to me & without these opportunities that Evergreen has provided, I never would have finished my degree, returned to school with such desire & passion to graduate & obtain as much learning & skills necessary to provide myself with the benefits of being able to provide for myself, my foster sons, my nieces, my family. I realized that all these opportunities arose for me because of the careful consideration, legislation and policies surrounding student aid & the tedious process of trying to obtain an education. It has not been easy, but it has been more than worthwhile in showing me the many opportunities that are out there, even right in front of me, to serve my community in this way. My education this far has provided me with the ability to help others in ways that I never had the opportunity of having. As a low-income, first generational college student, finding my way through the educational system was confusing, hard & unclear. I want to be the change for individuals who want to take that first step but are unsure as to where they should start.