

Date: December 3, 2022
To: Evergreen College, MPA Program
From: Kelsey Longrie
RE: Statement of Purpose

To the Evergreen Faculty,

As a product of the Tacoma Public School system, I have been exposed to the inequities it faces and have made strides to help our Tacoma community. Since I could remember, I have had a passion for helping others and giving back. Whether it's working with animals, people or environmental stewardship, community service has always been a passion of mine. In 2010, I graduated from Stadium High School to pursue my undergrad at Oregon State University where I received my Bachelors in Animal Science (2014). It wanted to take what I learned and apply it to caring for animals and educating the public in environmental stewardship.

I interned, volunteer and eventually became employed and Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium for the Rocky Shores and Arctic Tundra team. I loved cleaning, feeding, training the animals and giving presentations to the public about the importance of taking care of our environment and how each animal we visit is an ambassador for the ones in the wild. As a child, I spent many weekends and field trips at this zoo and learning what it takes to provide humane care for a variety of animals put into perspective the importance of ethical policies. This sparked a new fire in me, and made me re-evaluate how I can further my own passion to make a difference in the community that I live in.

With a pivot towards education in the nonprofit sector, I served with AmeriCorps and Peace Community Center working with students K-12. After my year of service, I was hired on full time and have been working within various roles at Peace for over six years. I wish to continue learning more so I can actively do more for the community I grew up in. This is why I am

pursuing the Evergreen MPA Program. The Evergreen mission statement aligns with my own values of which include social justice, diversity, environmental stewardship and service in public interest. It's important to me to not only further my education, but attend a college where my core values and the college's mission align. I have spent over six years serving Tacoma through nonprofit work and I want to continue my education and add my repertoire that can help the community flourish. As the values for myself and Evergreen College are in unison, I have no doubts that this college is right for me.

Although there is a plethora of Masters degrees that I could pursue that align with nonprofits, none of them are as versatile and recognizable as MPA. I love that this degree is interdisciplinary covering so many fields of nonprofit work. I plan to continue my professional career working with nonprofits and want to gain more knowledge in this realm of study to make positive and sustainable change for the community. Not only is it important to understand strategic planning, fundraising and organizational leadership, policy is also big part of change. I want to become more aware and familiar with the structure we have in place, and how we can create and strengthen equitable policies moving forward.

With a passion for serving nonprofit organizations and improving the Tacoma community, I feel it's my time to get my Masters in Public Administration at Evergreen. Thank you for considering me for the Master in Public Administration Program!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelsey Longrie".

Kelsey Longrie