

Evergreen's Master of Public Administration Program: Public Policy Memo

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The state has currently been experiencing a large turnover rate in law enforcement. Many peace officers have chosen to retire or pursue different employment opportunities as many public health and safety changes have occurred in the state such as changes in state policies and laws, increases in violent crimes, and more. These changes have all played a role in the turnover rate in law enforcement. Police departments across Washington State are continuously looking to hire more peace officers to meet the public health and safety demands of their communities. Currently, at the police academy, cohorts are on waitlists due to limited staffing personnel and the agency's capacity to offer more classes throughout the year.

With the demand to offer more classes at the academy, the need for funding a new larger academy has been in the works as the current Executive Director and alumna of Evergreen Tacoma, Monica Alexander has been diligent and passionate about working with legislators and the governor's office to advocate for more funding. Alexander, has proposed a budget to fund a new training academy that will meet the needs of the growing law enforcement field and funding for smaller regional academies throughout the state to provide more flexibility for recruits who commute long distances to attend the academy and in many cases, are away from their children and families for over 4 months during their training. The governor has advocated and verbally expressed their desire to provide more funding and policy changes to promote the future of law enforcement and the public safety of the state. As the governor's budget is being finalized during this legislative session, the agency will soon know if they have the funds and support needed to promote the betterment of the state's public health and safety.