

Rachel Nabors

### Rachel Nabors' Statement of Purpose

I believe that representation matters. I also believe in being the change you wish to see. As a Black woman who grew up in predominately White schools and spaces, I am in a unique position to be able to witness everyday life in a way that others simply do not. I see how I am treated differently than others. I am able to pinpoint the racism and microaggressions. Because of my experience, I want to create rules and regulations to protect Black and other POC communities from what I have experienced. I also want to help other vulnerable populations: low-income individuals and disabled individuals. An MPA degree would give me the ability to do just that: be a driving force for change in my community and a voice for those who feel unheard.

Through the various interest sessions I attended, I was informed that the MPA program is designed for individuals who desire to make structural change. I feel as though there would be no need for one-on-one change if structural change was already in place for vulnerable populations. I also firmly believe that I can help more people at one time with structural change. Respectfully, what good is one-on-one change if there aren't rules and regulations in place to keep that change accountable? I completed my undergraduate degree at The Evergreen State College and enjoyed the freedom that came with designing my education. I found that I was unable to find that elsewhere.

I truly believe that having my Master's degree will take me to phenomenal places I have never been before. I'm excited to continue my education. It is not lost on me how blessed and privileged I am to be able to further my education. I do not take this opportunity and responsibility lightly. My mother and father are the only ones in their lineage that have earned degrees. I am hoping to set the tone for my younger cousins and future nieces and nephews. This degree would not only change my life but would also help me inspire others into pursuing their dreams and aspirations.