

My decision to pursue an MPA. in public administration with a public policy concentration comes after over ten years of **experience** working in nonprofits and government, internationally and in the USA, to help meet the needs of our most vulnerable communities amidst growing recognition that existing policies are not making the impact they should. As a program officer, I served the Forum for African Women Educationalists, a Pan-African Organization promoting girls' and women's education rights. In more than three years of service with the organization, I led advocacy efforts for education and social policy reforms. In 2013, I co-organized the first-ever youth take-over UN Meeting in New York. Also, I have served as a Global Youth Ambassador for United Nations Special Education Envoy, working alongside former British Prime Minister Mr. Golden Brown.

Domestically, I have supported homelessness, housing, education advocacy, and youth development programs tailored to unique policy challenges through data-driven decision-making, deep listening, and an asset-based approach. Further, I have participated in national research projects where I worked and learned from reputable researchers. This work has given me a broader perspective on identifying the policy and administrative gaps and their management.

My recent **professional experience** has prepared me well for MPA coursework. In recognizing the need to reimagine services and programs, the city of Seattle and King County recently created a regional homelessness authority (KCRHA). I am among the first employees hired to work in this agency. As a Community Capacity Specialist, I support building the competency of organizations and community partners to meet Government and funding expectations to end homelessness in King County. Drawing from my work with YouthCare, Mary's Place, Seattle housing Authority and the KCRHA, my experience will also be an asset

for faculties studying issues in that I share similar interests. Several well-recognized scholars at Evergreen College have specialized in public policy, economics, and management as an area of interest. I like to push the scholarship further and deeper to find potential policy solutions and approaches to governance (community oversight, community voice). I am excited about the opportunity to learn from their expertise, experience, and skills in the classroom.

I have seen the impact of inequities that starve people of the opportunity to develop to their full potential. While much needless injustice is rooted in ideologies and structural forces, the results are compounded by one's status as a youth, child, or adult. I have witnessed the suffering and survival of people who lacked basic needs due to policies they had no part in shaping. This experience and my career goal of working in government as a Policy Researcher / Analysis and becoming a professor motivate me to pursue an MPA at Evergreen State College.

I will complete a Master of Arts in Community Planning in June 2023 from the School of Urban Studies at the University of Washington in Tacoma. I have participated in high-scope research with renowned researchers, gaining valuable experience developing research methodologies for critical inquiry. I received extensive training in gender and development studies, project management, grant writing, and community engagement. Also, I have participated in national research projects, including a study on *Gender Analysis for Government Policies and Institutions in the Gambia*, *An assessment of the Gender gaps in Education, and barriers to the Education System in the Gambia*. I have worked and learned from Ms. Adelaide Sosseh as a research assistant in both of these studies.

I am a first-generation college student in my family. This MPA is more than just a pride point for me, my family, and my community; it will also be a transformative step toward creating

equity and protecting vulnerable people on a larger scale. I would be honored to be accepted into this program and will work diligently to contribute as much as I receive.