I used to think my path was clear, computers. I attended both my high school and college graduations one weekend apart. Then started working retail to make ends meet. Started and almost completed a second associate's degree in digital design. Then actually complete a bachelor's degree in computer science. But the computer science job never came and my retail work dragged on.

Seeking something different from retail, I did what anyone in the Olympia region does. Applied for a State job. Thus my employment at the Department of Licensing (DOL) started. It was grunt work, answering phones and helping with vehicle law, but I found I picked it up fast. I felt much more fulfilled, though the fact that it had nothing to do with my degree and goals was a constant thorn.

Within less than a year I promoted to the support team, training those in the position I came from. No longer drowning in non-stop calls and assignments I found I could breathe and think. My digital design degree helped me create visually interesting content that was easier to absorb. My computer science degree helped me break down complex subjects into simple to follow steps. Around this time I realized I wanted to work for the State until retirement. Still though, I wasn't reaching my potential.

Then, it clicked. As part of a full time project to rewrite the policies, I took a 2-day course from Peabody on his writing style. Next I knew I was taking legalese manuals and spitting out clear instructions. The original vs the new was night and day. And the work was impactful! I had found policy writing.

So why a Master's in Public Administration through the Evergreen State College (TESC)? Because it's the clear answer! I want to work with the State. I want an impactful job where my

skills are used. And that's public administration. As an Olympian, (well Tumwater-ian?), and a TESC Alum it seems obvious.

As far as the mission statement, it aligns with my current mission at DOL. Especially that final bit "imagine new possibility". For a long time now my resume's lead-in statement has been:

"I am a lover of technology and seeing it used to better people's lives."

Considering a 2-day course was able to change my perspective, I look forward to what 2 years of graduate school can accomplish. Please let me learn so that I may use what you teach to change the world for the better, for every Washingtonian.