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Evergreen MPA Admissions  
July 2023

### Statement of Purpose

I originally went to school to get my bachelor's degree in psychology and my master's degree in counseling psychology with the hope of helping people. I am grateful for my degrees and they have been useful in how I show up and connect with people, but they are not enough. After 10 years of working for the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), I am finally ready to move forward to gain a deeper understanding of public administration.

I have held a variety of roles on different teams within the department, including the Quality Rating and Improvement System team, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers team, and now the Workforce Growth, Quality, and Recognition team. My experience has allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of our complex early learning workforce while networking with many professionals.

DCYF is working toward becoming an anti-racist organization. I have been a member of DCYF's Inclusive Racial Equity Change Team (DIRECT) for the last few years. I am also a member of the Early Learning Division's Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Planning Team where we are recruiting for our very first RESJ Committee. This committee will be a vital part of our division's racial equity work.

While I have a lot of experience in state government, I often feel like I am still learning on the job. I want to feel confident in the work I am doing to ensure our policies and procedures are not creating unintended consequences or upholding systemic and institutional

racism. The more I can learn, grow and develop my knowledge base, the more I can put that knowledge into my daily practice at work. My goal is to develop a workplace leadership framework that can be utilized in tandem with a family leadership program. I want DCYF staff to feel safe enough to show up as their authentic selves, as well as the families we serve.

I want to attend Evergreen's MPA program because I value Evergreen's social justice foundation, connection and commitment to indigenous communities, and collaborative learning style. I have worked with a number of colleagues who are Evergreen MPA graduates and they have always impressed me in the way they speak about complex issues and are able to collaborate with others to reach decisions.

I choose Evergreen because it represents how I see myself: Ever-curious. Ever-evolving. My hope is that Evergreen will choose me.