

Statement of Purpose

Roxanne Hockett

January 9, 2024

Before I was even born, a foundation was laid for me in 1951 when Ted George became the first Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Member to graduate from college. In 2018, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe recognized Ted George as the first recipient of the Theodore "Ted" George Legacy Award to recognize tribal members who demonstrate a life of service to the advancement of issues related to education, cultural preservation, sovereignty and/or treaty rights protection. Higher education is a focus area of our tribal council, to increase lifelong educational opportunities for tribal members of all ages to the fullest extent possible.

I would not be here if it were not for the support of my family, peers, and tribal council.

I'm applying to the Evergreen Master of Public Administration Graduate Program to advance my career in grants and contracts. I have been the Grants Director for Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe for the last 6 years. I know public policy and grants go together which is why I desire to be more involved in the legislation process and formation of funding packages before they hit the public. I am excited to be applying to this program because I know it will offer me the knowledge and experience to achieve my goals.

As a Leadership Kitsap Foundation Alumni, class of 2023, I had the privilege to participate in a group whose mission it was to bring our youth and law enforcement together to reduce stigmas. We partnered with the Boys and Girls Club of South Puget Sound, the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue. We created an 8-week program

called Beyond the Badge where the uniformed men and women came for an hour each week to the Boys and Girls Club in Bremerton, Washington to participate in everyday activities such as cooking quesadillas while also teaching stove safety and practicing first aid. The children's favorite activities included the search and rescue demonstration using a drone and meeting the K-9 German Shepard Odin.

Contributing my time with Leadership Kitsap was an experience that influenced my decision to seek my graduate degree in public administration. I gained a new perspective on civic leadership and a deeper sense of the critical issues that affect Kitsap County and my community. Some highlights of my time spent with Leadership Kitsap include the day we toured Quixote Village in Olympia. To see a functioning tiny home village that fosters community and encourages personal growth was eye opening. We also toured the Kitsap County Jail and heard jail staff talk about reentry and the programs that go into reducing recidivism. These are the types of critical issues that can benefit from grant funding and public policy.

I completed my undergraduate program completely online. The virtual format of education is very flexible, and I gained a lot from it. I felt there was always something missing. The sense of community is what draws me to the Evergreen MPA program. I believe that is a unique experience that Evergreen can offer me. I'm at a time in my life where community and working collaboratively is more about building relationships. Being an active listener, ask questions, have open and honest conversations, show respect and appreciation for others. These are attributes I can bring as a student at Evergreen.