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Dear whom it may concern,

As I sit here and looking back at the journey that I have taken over the course of my post-baccalaureate degree in the arts with an emphasis in Indigenous Humanities of research writing and critical analysis. I am overflowing with gratitude for the learning experiences and lessons that hold value to my heart, and has shaped me not only academically, but professionally, and personally as well. Through my time at Evergreen I studied and spent countless hours The Native Pathways Program (NPP), learning, understanding, and listening NPP has not only given me an understanding of Indigenous cultures, the Indigenous histories, and Indigenous perspectives, as well as emphasizing the importance of research, writing, and critical analysis to ensure that voices whom have been marginalized and challenged in even the most recent of times.

After engaging with a wide variety reading, the multiple theories, and observations that I witnessed it gave me the opportunity to learn to approach Indigenous knowledge and the systems with the respect, reciprocity, and openness to the culture, my culture, my community. It taught me what respect research deserves. Throughout the Native Pathways Program, I gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for the complexities within the Indigenous worldviews. I have learned to recognize the interconnectedness of all beings and the significance of traditions that are important in preserving cultural heritage.

I have had multiple opportunities to really recognize and lean in on my research and writing skills. I learned to not only analyze sources but analyze them in a way that is critical and relevant. I learned the importance to execute and craft compelling arguments, while also communicating ideas effectively professionally, academically, and personally. I been able to learn and understand storytelling and the power in holds within research, while recognizing

importance of ensuring that Indigenous voices, values, and experiences in any and all aspects.

As I go into this next journey and chapter of life; academically, professionally, and personally, I will always carry the invaluable lessons, insights, and understanding that I have gained from my time in The Native Pathways Program and Indigenous focused research and critically engaged thinking and writing courses. As I write this I feel overwhelming joy to be committed to continuing my learning respectfully while continuing to advocate for Indigenous communities, as I continue to learn how to use my voice to help in underrepresented populations while using my next journey to continue my research, critical writing and analysis skills to help spread awareness to the injustices, to promote equity.

At the end of the day, applying for the master's in public administration - Tribal Governance is something that I believe will give me an experience to continue my education and further my professional career. Living and learning within the Indigenous community has given me an experience that helped with shaping me into an individual who is more empathetic, strong willed, and passionate for social justice, and my professional development. I am both nervous and looking forward to utilizing all of the knowledge, skills, and experiences that I learned. The skills and knowledge learned over the course of my post-baccalaureate degree will help me create an impact that is positive during my next academic, professional, and community-oriented journey. This journey will also help me in learning to contribute to more inclusive and diverse populations that I may not have reached before.