


Dear whom it may concern,

As I sit here and looking back at the journey that I have taken over the course of my undergraduate degree and then 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 with The Native Pathways Program (NPP), learning, understanding, and listening to all the lessons there have been to learn. 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 who have been marginalized and challenged in even the most recent of times are heard. My own voice included.

As someone who works for the Evergreen State College as an admissions counselor, I live and love for my job on a daily basis. I help spread over 38 states in the Midwest and East Coast, and five US Territories – students who are from diverse communities, students who, some feel college is not an option. In reality, college is an option, for everyone, me include. At one point or another, like Graduate school I have felt the same way, thinking graduate school was a waste of my time, that I would never be good enough. I have applied for graduate school, here at Evergreen twice in the years since graduating in 2022. I was denied every single time, and it was painful, it was a set back and I questioned multiple times since if I was really cut out for this job? I am, though, I am cut out for the job, and I do amazing at what I do. My sister applied for her dream college Rider University in New Jersey ten times before finally being accepted. After watching my sister go through her pain and failure, and then experiencing it for myself; I tell all of my students. I don't care how long it takes, if Evergreen is where you want to be, then Evergreen is where I will help you to the best of my ability to get you here. And I have, I stick to that promise, and I stick with my students every step of the way! So, when it comes to MPA, I feel without a doubt this is exactly where I need to be. I feel strongly that getting accepted and graduating in two years with the cohort class of 2026 will put me onto the path I need to be able to create change. I vow to myself, and everyone who knows me to never give up on applying a program I feel will give me the trajectory I need to become the best possible admissions counselor and in further career developments, administrator or ever Director of a program of office. I will continue applying for The Evergreen State College, MPA program every year, and that reason is simple – I don't allow my students to give up, when they think they can't make it, or get denied and if I give up, what kind of example am I showing to my students.

Throughout my time at Evergreen, I have been able to engage with a wide variety of reading, materials, multiple theories, and observations that I have had the pleasure to witness. Evergreen 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 other 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, just 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, and promote the equity that is deserved within this world.

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, working, 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 especially over the last 17 months of working in admissions. The skills and knowledge learned over the course of my post-baccalaureate degree will help me further 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 been able to reach before – it will guide me towards a direction to become a better admissions counselor, and more will-power to positively influence, engage, and inspire. .