

Statement of Purpose

I started my Associate's at Northwest Indian College, fully believing that I was meant to become an educator. Through my classwork and employment with the Quinault Indian Nation, I was immediately drawn to human services. My blend of lived experience, insight and commitment to opportunity and equality for all helped me foster genuine connections, gain trust and help people overcome adversity to realize their potential. After two decades working "boots on the ground", I am ready to effect change at the policy level. My goals remain the same- to see all people able to access, utilize, participate and prosper because our systems match the diversity of our communities, community leaders and policy writers. My love for education still shines through, but instead of leading a classroom I lead case managers and investigators in a style that encourages skill development and to ask the difficult questions when needed. In addition to being a voice for those who, for a time, lose theirs; one of the most rewarding aspects of my career has been to watch a professional blossom within a leadership structure that is understanding, yet demands high standards and is supportive, yet demands ethical standards beyond contestation.

Recently, I was honored with the opportunity to join the Policy Unit with the Attorney General's Office as a Tribal Policy Analyst working with the Truth and Reconciliation Tribal Advisory Committee. As part of my commitment to ensure I am providing the best possible service to the committee and Indian Country, I want to increase my skills and ability around public policy development and analysis. Public policy is a career change for me. With this change, came the realization that I needed to develop a more specific skill set in this field if I am to live up to my own expectations.

I completed my Bachelor's degree at Evergreen. I always knew I would return to Evergreen for graduate studies. Evergreen was my first immersion experience into an environment, a community, which

embraced change, valued diversity and encouraged free thought and enterprise. Evergreen was my first educational experience that challenged me to push beyond my comfort zone, forcing me to reach loftier goals than I would have sought on my own. It is the commitment to diversity, inclusion and critical thinking that draws me back to Evergreen.

The MPA mission and philosophy statement captures what I want to bring to my work with the policy team. Part of what motivates me is my innate responsibility to advocate powerfully on behalf of my community. I am a proud member of the Quinault Indian Nation. It is important to me to do my part to ensure opportunities are realized for the next seven generations. To accomplish this I embrace imaginative new possibilities- if we can dream it, we can accomplish it. Not all ideas will be a resounding success, but even small change, if positive, makes a difference. It is important to my core belief system that I work collaboratively with others to ensure that the freedom exists for all people to share new ideas and risk creating dynamic and enduring change towards diversity, truth and reaching our full human potential.