

Statement of Purpose-William A Rasmussen

My whole life as an adult, and even all the way to when I was in High School, I have worked and served others. I was a student athlete back in the day, when dinosaurs roamed these lands according to my children, but I did more then that. For 3 years I was a student athletic trainer, I took care of the football team for 3 years. I had learned on the job and had some formal training. That is where I got my passion for medical field. Soon after I went on to college and then the Navy. I excelled at Corps School to become a Navy Corpsman (medic) then went to school to be a Respiratory Therapist. I can honestly say that I have worked all areas of health care from trauma and military medicine to pediatrics and Neo-natal. I have worked in major university medical centers, on the streets of rural Kansas and the San Francisco Bay area, to the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan. I have so many different jobs, but that's what we do, we do it all. I did Occupational Health and Preventive Medicine, medical records, laboratory, and a whole lot of cleaning and swabbing decks. I was qualified to be a Navy Flight Medic and with a background have training in Diving Medicine.

We are always aware of looking for stress or mental health issues, Im not sure how I fit in my status with that when I decided to sky dive-not just once but twice. Mental Health has come to the top of all of us vets radar these days with suicide rates and and just challenges that we face. I had to address several issues while deployed overseas and continually monitored the mental health and well being of all my guys, and seeing that we were the ones looking for the road side bombs, I had my hands full.

My experience and training are to run into the chaos. We are the ones going into the fire, the flood, the fight. This has also put me into some rather disheartening situations. A young child who's parent was injured or killed by a drunk driver, an older woman who's life long partner is having CPR done in their home, the 10 year old kid who is dyeing from burns, or the new born that too small to survive. You have to be an advocate for all, compassionate to all, and above all-don't let them see your affected by

whats going on, you put on your game face and move on.

While I was at Walter Reed I was responsible to take care of administration issues that come up, called them paper fires. The phrase its not done til the paperwork is submitted and approved. Guard and Reserve soldiers have end dates on their orders. This effects the pay and allowances and even their health care. It was my job to get them back on orders. Usually its a matter of making calls, but you had to persist, a Joes family is depending on it. Then there is the stepping up and going over and above, in paperwork. That a guy we had had been injured and brought from theater to Walter Reed with literally nothing, no orders, no ID, no uniforms, almost no cloths. His buddy who had died in the incident that injured him was going to be buried over 4th July weekend, and it was a Friday Afternoon that we were made aware of the situation. As a team, we got everything this soldier needed, including a dress uniform and ID and tickets to go to the funeral, to show his respects and his devotion to his friend, and help a family with the loss of their father.

My resume is 15 pages long, so why do I tell you all this ? Because this degree program is about service. Its about getting things done for others. Its about solving problems and answering questions. Its all about in some way or form taking someone hand and walking them thru a problem together. In addition to medical I have been a School Teacher, a Park Ranger, Law Enforcement, and a Maintenance Worker. I can honestly say I have done just about everything. And I'm still here and want more.

I seek a Masters Degree because I am at a limit of what I can do with my education and training, But I can do so much more. I have done the -as we call it- scut work. There needs to be someone with background and experience in a Leadership role. They need to have something more then just a piece of paper. They need to have experienced the trials that others they are dealing with and able to not only empathize with them, but to show a path to resolving the problem. Too many times I have seen weak

leaders, who cause more problems and give people the run around. Too many times I have seen the 'not my job' attitude, or 'stay in your lane'. While I was working at VA I saw people bust their tail in a process that only made the job impossible, and people suffered. This degree is about Leadership. Setting the example and saying that apathy is unacceptable.

My reason for choosing Evergreen are multi faceted, but comes down to I like what I saw when I came onto the campus. Its a lot smaller then where I got my BS, Colorado State. The faculty appear to be engaged with students. And the people I spoke with seemed to have a good handle on what you need or want. I originally wasn't considering the program, but your counselor and I discussed it and sounded a great fit for me. The campus is located in Olympia area, the Capital of Washington, so puts me in good location for contacts, experience, and possible internships and jobs. The Campus is basically surrounded urban area surrounded by open space, its right at the edge of the water, and coming from Colorado, where a puddle we call a lake. I really like water and the ocean. The trees help too.

Which brings me to the other point about why I decided to apply at Evergreen, That the program is geared not just for the social aspect, inner city and government. But also for the Environmental aspect of governance. My degree is in Eco-system Science and Sustainability, which looks at ecology from a business aspect. As a community we need to embrace what our environment provides for us, besides the pretty trees and Salmon fishing, oh and don't forget the Orcas and clams.

What it really comes down to is I felt comfortable so far being there, and I look forward to getting started.