

Joseph Utzler

156 Oak Street

Bremerton, WA 98310

[josephutzler@gmail.com](mailto:josephutzler@gmail.com)

### Statement of Purpose

As a returning student, I hope to further my education for social purposes. I am from humble beginnings with a long history of utilizing programs provided at the city, county, state, and federal levels. Throughout my lifetime I have faced systemic challenges of education, housing, and employment. I am the first person in my family to receive a degree in higher education. This was no small achievement despite my background, age, and the Covid 19 Pandemic that continues to plague our world. I have gained personal knowledge of re-entry services and certificates for behavioral healthcare. With all these experiences, I have developed healthy solutions to system navigation for successful lifestyle choices. I currently volunteer in the community as a Recovery Coach and Certified Peer Support Specialist. I am an active participant within the Indigenous community for the arts and spirituality amongst sovereign nations. My ancestry of mixed descent offers a unique perspective for compassion and inclusion. A love for the beautiful diversity our world provides. Transparent communication with well- practiced emotional intelligence has blessed my life with genuine interest in my community. My life is dedicated to service. I am wealthy and it has nothing to do with money. My intentions are genuine in understanding the development of housing and utilizing wrap around services to individuals that may need

these services. The policies, procedures, and financial sustainability of a viable organization aspiring in the creation of safer communities.

With the Native Pathways Program, I have been introduced to the benefits of higher education. I have a clearer understanding of the need to pursue my professional goals for social purposes. Interdependence is a fundamental solution to our challenges faced today by the wage gaps, poverty, chronic homelessness, substance abuse, crime, and trauma related mental health disabilities. Change makers are needed with innovative ideas to meet these ever- changing times. I have interned with the Center for Community Based Learning and Action as Justice Involved Student Coordinator and had the privilege to work with James J. Jackson Education Re-Entry Navigator. During this period of my pathway, I was intrigued by the rewards by standing on my story and past experiences. Furthermore, along this journey I was surprised to be awarded nationally for the Newman Civic Fellowship. This empowerment changed my views on my past and current self-identity. My perceptions are positively impacted with realistic expectations and objectives decisions in my endeavors. I have decided to delve into a more in-depth study of people and the industry of public policy. Evergreen provides the interdisciplinary curriculum I have yet to see any equivalent. The resources and the proximity of the State capitol will provide valuable information and insight into the professional goals I set. An encompassing knowledge of these practices allows me to feel confident in my application to continue with The Evergreen State college. Networking and leadership practices have assisted in my daily interactions has developed strong relationships with the non-profit community.

As I continue to engage in my self-development I will participate in cooperating with my peers alumni and staff at TESC. I will challenge my own ideology and the system to gain insight for social change. I will gladly accept criticism and advice from all sources. I may have learned many practices over the time I have lived thus far, and yet I still yearn for further teachings to better my life and those I share this page of history. Time is all I have in this life and I would use it to leave it with a better world I was born to. Now it is a good world I live in and I count my blessings and am grateful. Times created adaptability for us to evolve and I believe we have not achieved our full potential, were close. I will say about that much.

Thank you.