

Shannon (Christy) Barrett
MIT Admissions Endorsement Essay
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The completion of my AAS degree in Early Childhood Education at South Puget Sound Community College established a foundation in me that connection is the key to teaching a child. It took many hours of practicum work, hands on experience, and theory to practice application to understand this idea. I believe in the importance of connection.

Aside from the social-emotional training I gained at SPSCC, my math and science curriculum course prepared me to teach to the student and make it engaging. My language and literacy development course gave me deep insight into the fundamentals of early literacy, how to apply theory, and specifically work with ELL. Other classes like 'Exceptional Learners' and 'Brain Development' gave me the knowledge of understanding how each child has different learning needs, focusing on ways to engage students who are neurodiverse. I was introduced to important theories that I refer to often like intersectionality, and anti-bias education. When I reflect on my learning at SPSCC, the mark it made on me was essential in my professional development and prepared me to further my degree at The Evergreen State College.

At Evergreen State College my CCBLA courses made a large impact on my view of our education system. My perspective started to shift when I realized there is more to the story of education accessibility in our communities. My projects and internships had a focus of social justice, liberation education, and inclusion. I struggled at times with the idea of not proceeding with applying for the masters in teaching, wondering if being a teacher would be a good fit for me. I questioned my lifelong goal of becoming a certificated teacher after learning more about the dysfunction of our broken school system. During these reflections, I started my internship at a local school named Olympia Regional Learning Academy with trained Montessori teachers; Ms. Kyrian and Ms. Bella. I gained an incredible amount of mentorship, insight, knowledge, and most of all, inspiration and hope, from working in their classrooms. I spent over 200 hours in Ms. Kyrian's 3rd-5th grade classroom for one quarter, and over 400 classroom hours in Ms. Bella's k-2nd grade classroom for 2 quarters. This gave me many experiences to learn about the structure of the school day, classroom management skills, and the beginning skills to teach short lessons in early literacy, math, and geography to K-2nd graders. Evergreen provided those experiences for me, with the guidance and additional class resources, themed readings, and field trips led by Alice Nelson, Therese Saliba, and Ellen Short-Sanchez. Additionally, taking this course provide me with part-time, and flexible employment. The interactions I made throughout my internships with staff at ORLA, led to my employment as a substitute paraeducator for the Olympia and Tumwater School Districts. My mentors were able to write letter's of recommendation for me, as well as guide me through the process of applying.

I am currently enrolled in Anatomy and Physiology with lab to fulfill my remaining science requirement. I hope to fulfill my remaining credits of dance, theatre, music and visual arts by volunteering with my local school's theatre program. My responsibilities include to guide and support small groups of theatre students in their lines, vocal pitch, and tone and overall stage presence as guided by the lead teacher. This program is for k-5 students.

I am continuously humbled by the experiences I've gained in the last 4 years of my college education. I understand that to be a teacher is to always be learning, growing, and cultivating

an awareness of the importance of progress. I would be grateful to continue my education with the MiT program at Evergreen State College.