

Endorsement Essay- Elementary Education

Natashia Milburn (she, her, hers)

Word Count: 497

After seeing how many endorsements Evergreen State College offers, I decided upon the Elementary Education endorsement as I believe it is the perfect fit for what should come next in my teaching career. After earning my B.S. in Educational Studies and Community Leadership roughly five years ago, I have worked with children of all ages and in numerous subjects and communities. Rather than becoming a classroom teacher, I set out to be an inclusive, eclectic educator who teaches various topics in diverse communities around the Tampa Bay Area and Central Florida. Although there are subjects that I have not taught in a classroom setting, I believe that pursuing a higher education in mastering all subjects would make me a well rounded, extraordinary educator. Having taught hundreds of children in various levels of development, economic status, and abilities has prepared me to pursue Elementary Education, Masters in Teaching program.

As I started studying for the NES exams, I soon realized how much academic refreshing I would need to earn a degree in this endorsement. Testing has proven to be my main weakness in academia, especially tests that determine how the next two- four years of my life will go. Having only scored within the point range for case-by-case basis for entrance to this program, I acknowledge the extra work that would need to occur for both myself and the faculty, but I believe the outcome will benefit all parties involved. Due to a 30 day grace period Pearson requires before re-testing, I will re-take both tests the first week of November in hopes of scoring 220 or above so as to not create extra work for you all and for myself.

Facing known challenges head on is how I have tried to live through all facets of my adulthood, both personally and professionally. To help fill in the gaps of where I lack experience in my professional and academic background in math and science, I will use the 40 hours of classroom shadowing to assist in elementary Math and Science classes. In October, I started volunteering to assist a teacher who tutors 5th grade Math with three to five students. Observing in a setting where there are less distractions from other students will provide an excellent opportunity to really learn their teaching styles and methods. I am particularly looking forward to working with English Language Learner students as I pride myself on my multi-culturally inclusive pedagogy. Obtaining the knowledge and skills to teach all subjects at the elementary level means I could help the same ELL students throughout the entire school year, providing consistent and familiar academic support. My ability to adapt and overcome

life's obstacles and challenges is a trait that was instilled in me at a very young age. Between my life-long resiliency, stubbornness to persevere and ever prevalent passion in the future of education and social justice for youth proves me to be the perfect candidate for the Masters in Teaching: Elementary Education endorsement.