

EVERGREEN

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Master of Public Administration
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Lab 1 Room 3024
Olympia, Washington 98505

July 24, 2013

Congratulations on your acceptance into The Evergreen State College's Master of Public Administration (MPA) program! We, the faculty of the First Year Core, are writing to welcome you to your initial year of public administration study. The First Year Core is a year-long series of courses designed to explore the fundamentals of administering the public good. In the fall, we will focus on the foundations of democracy and public administration, while our study during the winter will examine the knowledge and skills needed to practice public administration in organizations. In the spring, we will concentrate on public policy, fiscal foundations, and budgets. In sum, First Year Core provides students with the fundamental knowledge for their entire MPA study, the skills to apply their learning to their public service work, and the abilities necessary to create positive change beyond the college classroom.

Faculty Introductions:

Your faculty members for the First Year Core are Amy Gould, Steve Laubacher, and Greg Weeks. We each have unique academic credentials and practical public service experiences, as highlighted below:

- Amy is a full time continuing faculty member at The Evergreen State College and has taught here since 2005. She earned her B.A. in Public Policy and Management from the University of Oregon in 1997; M.S. in Public Affairs from the University of Oregon in 2000; Ph.D. in Political Science from Northern Arizona University in 2005. As a former practitioner of public administration in transportation, her research and publications include management style and leadership, trust within public service, conformity, social differences, public policy, project management, organizational theory and behavior, constitutions, Office of the U.S. President, religion, international relations and development, social science research methods, and gender studies.
- Steve is a "Visiting Faculty" and has worked primarily as a "practitioner" in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors. Steve began his career as a clinician and then progressed from mid-level management to the CEO level. However, for the past 15 years, he has focused on nonprofit turnaround and has addressed various issues related to: bankruptcy; violations of law; and capacity building. He has a B.A in Psychology from the University of Dayton; an M.P.A. from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Houston. He has taught at the University of Dayton in Ohio and Roosevelt University in Chicago and has strong interests in the role of Board of Directors and related governance issues. He has also authored publications in nonprofit ethics and policy implementation. He is looking forward to learning from the Evergreen community and discussions on how to strengthen the nonprofit sector.
- Greg has a Ph.D. in labor economics from Washington State University. He was a member of the faculty at Evergreen for nearly 20 years until he entered public service with the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) in 2000. At ESD, Greg managed TANF research for about a year and then was named the state Labor Market Information Director. In that position he managed a 90 person labor market statistics unit within ESD called Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA). During Greg's 12 years leading LMEA, the state was recognized with numerous national awards, and Greg was the recipient of the Governor's Leadership in Management Award in 2006. In 2009, he received the Vladimir Chavrid Award for national leadership in employment statistics. Since leaving ESD in 2012, Greg worked as a consulting economist for a year with Brandt Information Services, a Tallahassee company. Greg recently began working at the state Office of Financial Management, conducting research on employment outcomes of educational programs (like this one). Greg is very excited to be returning to the MPA program, and is looking forward to working with you.

MPA Website:

Course syllabi (including our core fall syllabus), are posted on the MPA website so students can be prepared for the quarter. **Please review the relevant course resources before our first meeting.** You can access this information on the MPA Course Syllabi page, located on the left navigation of the MPA home page under the “For Current Students” title.

<http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/coursesyllabi.htm>

By the time you receive this correspondence, we will expect you all to have activated your Evergreen email account and faculty/staff will communicate exclusively with you via this email address from now on. Any course announcements will be sent to these accounts as well. To activate your e-mail, go to http://wikis.evergreen.edu/computing/index.php/Logging_in_for_the_First_Time

As the beginning of the fall quarter nears, you will be able to access our course website (“moodle”) by logging in to <http://my.evergreen.edu/> using your Evergreen e-mail address and password. Moodle is where we will post course materials such as articles and it is also where you will upload your assignments.

Reasonable Accommodations will be provided for any student who qualifies for them through a working relationship with Access Services. To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the office of Access Services for Students with Disabilities (867-6348 or 6364); webpage: <http://www.evergreen.edu/access/>. If the student is already working with the office of Access Services the faculty should have received a letter clearly indicating the student has a disability that requires academic accommodations. If any student has a health condition or disability that may require accommodations in order to effectively participate in this class, please do the following: **contact faculty** before class and contact Access Services to receive a letter of accommodation. Information about a disability or health condition will be regarded as confidential. Please refer to Evergreen’s Students with Disabilities Policy: <http://www.evergreen.edu/policies/policy/studentswithdisabilities>

New Student Orientation:

As you know, we are meeting on the weekend of September 28 (Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm) in the Seminar II building on campus, cluster B, room 1105. The reading for the first weekend is:

- Kidder, T. (2009). *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*. Random House. ISBN: 978-0812980554, \$4 used

We consider it an honor to help prepare public servants by assisting students in connecting their academic study to the daily complexities of public administration in the 21st century. Once again, we look forward to working and learning alongside each of you. Until then, have a great summer and we will see all of you in September.

Sincerely,

Amy, Steve, & Greg