**Return 2019 Session**

**Session Title:** Theory to Practice: Graduate Alumni on a Capstone Shaping a Career

**Session Description:**

**Join a panel of alumni from Evergreen’s graduate programs as they discuss how their student research influenced their careers. Students in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) and Master of Environmental Studies (MES) programs complete culminating projects at the end of their program, often contributing significant findings to both researchers and practitioners. This panel highlights several MPA and MES alumni whose final project influenced their path after Evergreen. In this informal panel, audience members are invited to bring their questions as panelists share the challenges and successes of their thesis or capstone project, how Evergreen influenced their career development, and what’s next.**

* **No more than 100 words.**
* Give a concise description that captures the essence of the session.
* Use active, engaging language that inspires readers to attend.
* Frame your description with these questions:
  + What can attendees expect to do in this session? What is the format?
  + What are you especially excited about in this session?
  + What will they take away?

**Session Format:** Tour, workshop, seminar, hands-on art activity?

**Presenters:**

* **Lead Facilitator – Andrea Martin, MES 2013, Assistant Director, MES**
* **Co-Facilitator – Anna Rhoads, MES 2016, Assistant Director, MPA**
* **Short bio (100 words) for each presenter that answers the following questions:**

Andrea Martin has served as the Assistant Director of Evergreen’s Master of Environmental Studies program (MES) since January 2017. She holds a BA in History from San Francisco State University, and completed her MES at Evergreen in 2013. She has been passionate about environmental and experiential education for the last decade, working for Northwest Youth Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, and Washington Trails Association, and completing her MES thesis on the long-term influence of conservation corps participation on environmental attitudes. She feels her work supporting MES students is the next phase of her career as an educator and facilitator. Outside of Evergreen, Andrea is an avid trail runner and backpacker and currently serves on the board of directors at Capitol Land Trust.

Anna Rhoads has served as the Assistant Director for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program since October 2017. She received her BS in Environmental Policy from Humboldt State University and her Master of Environmental Studies from Evergreen. When she was a student at Evergreen, she was a member of Evergreen’s Clean Energy Committee and worked as a recruiting assistant for the MES program. Anna focused her thesis research on transportation management and its impact on communities in transition. Upon receiving her MES degree, Anna worked for Thurston County Public Health as an environmental health educator and Evergreen’s Washington Center for Improving Undergraduate Education. As the current MPA Assistant Director, Anna enjoys helping current students successfully graduate and pursue their professional goals. Outside of work, Anna enjoys travelling and hiking.

**Session AV requirements:** (Screen for video or PowerPoint, laptop connection, etc)  
  
**Venue capacity requirements:** (Lecture Hall, classroom, etc)