The welcoming of a new cohort to the Evergreen MPA program is always an exciting time. While our community of MPA alums is known for its networks throughout Washington State, our administrators are making their presence known in both national and international circles. Our program has influenced thousands of graduates who are making change happen everywhere they go, and those alumnae represent a powerful lineup of change agents. Because of that, every new year signals a time to celebrate as our team grows.

We are facing a time of unquestionable challenges. From the conversations surrounding Evergreen this spring to the fractious climate on the national stage, as administrators, many of us have been called to navigate angry and uncertain conditions. However, this is also an incredible leverage point. More now than ever, the problem solvers and bridge builders of the Evergreen MPA program are vital. All of us who are part of this community can feel encouraged, knowing that whether they graduated in 1977 or 2017, our students are reflecting our program's commitment to social change and democratic governance through their work.

So, as we start this next chapter of the MPA program we want to say thank you to the incredible alums who continue to make our communities stronger, and to our new recruits, welcome to the team!