**Student and Alumni Profile Model/ Marketing**

\*NOTE: this format is modeled off of several various MPA student and Alumni profiles. The interview/ question format seems to be most popular and can be used in a blog platform as well.

**Lexie Tom, Lummi**

**Page Header**

PHOTO with quote running under or on the image with student/ alumni name (title if applicable) and year of class

**Background data**

Curriculum Development at Northwest Indian College

**Interview format; questions are as follows**:

* Why did you choose the Evergreen MPA program and how did you determine which concentration would be the best fit to your career goals?

I chose the Evergreen MPA program because it is the only program in the Pacific Northwest area that offers the tribal government concentration. I am a Lummi tribal member who is pursuing an education for the betterment of my community. A master’s degree in tribal government fit the needs of my community.

* Were/ Are you impressed with the convenience, cost and value of the program?

I am very impressed with the value of this program. I am getting more than what I originally expected. The instructors are professionals in the field that have a lot to offer.

* What was/ is your greatest take- away from the Evergreen MPA program and how have you applied that knowledge to your current professional position?

A great take-away from the Evergreen MPA program is learning various strategies tribes are using in sovereignty issues and improving infrastructure. I also believe the training we are receiving in research design is invaluable.

* How has/ does the unique platform of the MPA cohort, faculty interaction and seminar structure benefited you in meeting your career and life goals?

The people I have met in my cohort have a special place in my heart. When we are out of school I miss them. When it comes time to graduate we will continue to be friends and family.

Coming from a mainstream university where instructors aren’t always approachable, I’ve had a very different experience in the Evergreen MPA program. Instructors in the MPA program are not only approachable, but humble people with experience and expertise in their field. So learning skills needed in order to administer tribal governments from people with these qualities really enhances our classroom experience. It really shows us students the true meaning of servant leadership.

The seminar structure at Evergreen is something I was not familiar with. I was always the student that absorbed all of the information given in class, without the interaction. I am a very quiet person. Seminars give students like me the opportunity to speak on topics that are important to me. It gives me the opportunity to feel like I am contributing to the classroom experience.

* What advice would/can you offer to prospective and current students?

When I first applied to Evergreen the statement that really stuck out to me was by Joseph DeLaCruz about self-determination:

“No right is more sacred to a nation, to a people, than the right to freely determine its social, economic, political and cultural future without external interference.”

This is so important for Tribal Nations today to understand. This statement speaks to the true meaning of self-determination. And it speaks to my experience here in the Evergreen MPA program. In classes we talk about what self-determination really means, and it’s different for each tribe. This curriculum was not designed to always give every answer we are seeking. As students it’s our responsibility to dig deep and find answers that suit our own tribes for ourselves.