February 28, 2012

MPA FA Selection Committee

The Evergreen State College

Master of Public Administration Program

2700 Evergreen Parkway NW

Olympia, WA 98505

Re: MPA Financial Assistance Awards

Selection Committee Members:

I am seeking consideration for the following financial assistance awards for the Masters in Public/Non-Profit Administration Program:

1. Evergreen Alumni Association Graduate Award - $1,000;

2. Graduate Endowed Fellowship - $6,500;

3. John Walker Scholarship - $400;

4. Judge Fuller Graduate Fellowship - $1,300.

The most rewarding and fulfilling work has always been work where I help others. The issues of eliminating poverty and eliminating barriers for children and adults are a passion that I will pursue for the rest of my life. Naturally, the choice to attend Evergreen to further my intellectual development corresponds with my interests and personality. After obtaining my Bachelor of Arts Degree from Tacoma Evergreen, it was obvious to me that the unique interdisciplinary and collaborative approach cultivated trust, a spirit of teamwork, and empathy rather than competition among students. We became a culturally rich, diverse community and enjoyed working together to achieve unified projects. Anyone in a position of public trust and administration must have a genuine feeling of warmth, compassion, and understanding for their fellow woman and man.

I intend to pursue intellectual growth at Evergreen towards two main goals. My heart’s desire is to work in a nonprofit, due to their mission of unconditionally helping others and changing lives. I have faithfully sponsored children through World Vision for nearly 18 years. Now that I am over 40 years old, a wife, and mother -- having served as an elementary school PTA board member, classroom volunteer, and a high school guidance office secretary -- I have discovered that my greatest strengths are helping and encouraging others, writing, focus, and perseverance. The qualitative and quantitative areas I will pursue at Evergreen will further develop my skills in the area of grant writing, which is the lifeblood of the nonprofit. At the Tacoma Evergreen campus, I had the privilege of taking the Non-Profit Management class.

My other goal seems almost contradictory – but Evergreen is the master architect of interdisciplinary applications. I am still the inquisitive child, who never stops asking why. In such an advanced civilization, why is there still poverty? Why did nine banks receive $175 billion in bailout money when they turned around and paid 5,272 employees $32 billion in bonuses (averaging $6.1 million per person)? Why has CEO pay risen 298.2% since 1990, yet the federal minimum wage worker’s pay has fallen 9.3% since 1990? Why is gas nearly $4 a gallon, yet last year the oil industry reaped record billion dollar quarterly profits? Why do we put up with this? Why don’t I do something about this? I believe Evergreen uniquely equips and empowers students to become actively engaged citizens in the complex maze of law and policy making necessary to bring change. Learning the quantitative skills for analyst work will provide the necessary framework for action and implementation today, which leads to the desired outcome for the future.

As a first-generation student, the pathway has been blocked and obscured at times. When I began the journey towards earning my bachelor’s degree six years ago, I juggled parenting, working full-time, and college. I have discovered a hunger and thirst for “real” learning and knowledge. I am slightly unusual, in that I could delightedly read research until my eyes have lost their sight. I have realized that I am a lifelong student. I will pursue a doctoral degree and would appreciate your consideration and support for this step of the journey.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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