

SENT VIA EMAIL

March 19, 2012

The Evergreen State College
Master of Public Administration Program
c/o Jan Hays
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, WA 98505

Re: Letter of intent

Dear Committee Members:

I wish to convey my qualifications for the following financial aid opportunities: Evergreen Alumni Association Graduate Award; Graduate Endowed Fellowship; and the John Walker Scholarship. Primarily, this letter addresses my commitment to intellectual and professional development in the field of public policy, and my reasons for choosing Evergreen as the institution on which to build my future career.

My undergraduate background in applied anthropology (particularly in areas of collaborative research, community empowerment, and equity) has given me the tools to identify, research, and understand disparities; public policy is the framework for enacting social change to address those disparities. I believe that public policy provides the conceptual building blocks for our societal goals; therefore I am deeply committed to the intellectual pursuit and professional development of policy implementation. In other words, I am devoted to incorporating diverse perspectives from all levels of society during the creation and implementation of policy development internationally.

Evergreen's MPA program is a perfect fit for my interests and learning style because it offers the chance to examine public administration holistically. The teaching style of the program is equally important to me because I enjoy and excel at academic study when it is conducted in participant discussion oriented groups where I am evaluated and held accountable by my peers. I chose Evergreen because I believe the high quality of education that is embedded in the program's approach has allowed me to engage in the public sector competitively, creatively, and with confidence. I continue to experience much personal and professional growth as I am critiqued by my peers and learn how to evaluate my own performance in a meaningful way.

The volunteer work I have done for the Republic of the Marshall Islands Embassy and for Hawthorne Elementary School as indicated on my resume has directly informed and will continue to shape my professional development. I am committed to finding more volunteer opportunities that will allow me to utilize the new skills and tools I have gained from the program to enrich and empower the public and citizens. I believe that in addition to the community being equal participants in the design and execution of research and policy making, the end goal of any project should result in a direct benefit to the community in which you are

working. I am grateful to have had such rewarding volunteer experiences and a chance to advance my career through the exceptional networking opportunities offered by the MPA Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amber Siefer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amber" and last name "Siefer" clearly distinguishable.

Amber Siefer