Thank you for having me here this afternoon. I also want to thank George and Ken, and everyone at the College who has been supportive of the MPA Program for these last 36 years.

I want this brief timeline of the MPA Program to serve as a foundation for why piloting a program cohort in Tacoma is possible, and desirable.

* The MPA program at Evergreen was founded in 1980.
* In fulfillment of its mission, MPA Program students, faculty and staff create learning communities to explore and implement socially just, democratic public service.
* In 2002, we reformulated the MPA program to include 3 concentrations (Public & Nonprofit Administration, Public Policy, and Tribal Governance). It also included a brand new learning community for the Tribal Governance concentration. We remain the only MPA program in the United States that offers both a concentration in Tribal Governance and a cohort designed for people who work with Tribes and in Tribal governments.
* We've grown from a program that in the first 20 years annually served 50-60 students, to a program that annually serves 120-140 students (100+ student FTE).
* In Fall of 2014,we tried a program growth model to help meet the continued high demand for the Public & Nonprofit and Public Policy concentrations, which we now refer to as PNAPP. (Public administrators are great at creating acronyms!) We created the largest PNAPP learning community (with a dozen additional students and a larger 4-person teaching team). This PNAPP learning community, coupled with the largest graduating TG learning community, resulted in our largest MPA graduating class this past June, with 93 graduates!
  + However, this approach to growing the MPA program was unsatisfactory to both the faculty teaching team and to the students. It became administratively burdensome to administer as a teaching team, and the students felt like they were “too big to gel” as a learning community in a graduate program.
* Which brings us to why I am here today...

CURRENTLY,

* The MPA Program demand remains high for the PNAPP concentrations.
* The Program sustains a diverse student body: demographically diverse but also through a range of experiences (tribal governments, nonprofit, large state agencies, local governments, and a few from the private sector or international governments).
* There is no MPA Program in the Tacoma area.
* We are a selective program—only one out of 2 applicants gained admission in the last two PNAPP admissions cycles.
  + This “selectivity” presents us with an equity issue: We have to deny access to the MPA Program to people who would otherwise qualify for the program if we had capacity. Moreover, regionally, students of color live in the Tacoma and south King County areas. Expanding our MPA Program to Tacoma will make our nationally-recognized MPA Program easier to reach.

IN LOOKING to the FUTURE…

* The MPA Program would like to launch a pilot cohort at the College’s Tacoma location in fall of 2019.
* Why wait until 2019?
  + From recruitment and admissions, to marketing, to being incorporated into the College’s information systems, we want to have the time to do it right.
  + Also, we have a new TG cohort that enters the MPA Program on even-numbered years. If the Tacoma pilot is successful and sustainable, then having a new cohort entering Tacoma on odd-numbered years would provide more balance in the overall administration of the MPA Program.

(CLOSING)

* The reputation of our MPA program in the community is strong; employers appreciate our interns, students and alumni, and say that Evergreen State College MPA grads bring strong critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills and abilities to the workplace. The majority of our alumni are employed in the field and are satisfied with their employment. The majority of our students (and alumni) are satisfied with the program and recommend it to others; many believe the MPA program is a transformational experience.
* I hope the Trustees will support launching this MPA Program Tacoma pilot in fall 2019 for growth of the College, to promote our graduate programs, and to increase access to our nationally-recognized MPA Program.
* Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Degree Requirements for Public Policy (PP) Concentration 1st and 2nd Year Core (including Capstone) 36 credits; Foundations of Public Policy 4 credits; ARM 4 credits; Electives 16 credits // (PNA) Electives 24 credits // TG Concentration Courses 20 credits; Electives 4 credits // Total Credits: 60*