# The Evergreen State College

September 13, 2016

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To: Board of Trustees

From: George Bridges

Subject: The Master of Public Administration Program

1. **Administrative Recommendation:** Authorize offering a cohort of the MPA Program on the Evergreen-Tacoma site as there are adequate projected enrollments.
2. **Explanation:**
3. Present policy comparison: The College currently has authorization from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) to offer the MPA Program on the Olympia Campus. Because there is already an approved Evergreen-Tacoma site with adequate infrastructure to offer additional academic programs, NWCCU staff have indicated this request would be seen as a very modest change.
4. Proposed by: Ken Tabbutt, Interim Provost
5. Purpose: Provide greater access to the MPA Program to place bound students, including Evergreen-Tacoma undergraduate students, in the Tacoma, greater Pierce county and the South King County region.
6. Background: The Master of Public Administration Program at Evergreen has three concentrations: Public Policy, Public & Nonprofit Administration, and Tribal Governance. MPA Core curriculum for the Public Policy and Public & Nonprofit Administration (PNAPP) concentrations is delivered currently through two 2-year cohorts (learning communities): 1st Year Core and 2nd Year Core. MPA Tribal Governance Core curriculum is delivered through one 2-year cohort. In essence, there are three MPA learning communities operating each year in the MPA Program, about 135 students total. Currently, enrollment in the MPA program is robust and expanding the MPA Program to pilot a cohort at the Evergreen Tacoma site would allow an opportunity for students in the Tacoma area and north to enroll. There is no comparable program currently being offered by any other institution in the area. The Tacoma site has the capacity to host the MPA cohort and the 2019-21 pilot may lead to a regular and predictable rotation to that site.
7. **Scheduling:** The first cohort would be offered at Evergreen-Tacoma in Fall of 2019.
8. **Fiscal Impact:** The Evergreen-Tacoma MPA pilot would require no additional staffing, although, if the pilot is successful, may require additional administrative staff to sustain and/or expand recruitment efforts and administration of students. Resources to implement the proposal are in place. The MPA Program on the Olympia campus will continue to be offered in its current structure.
9. **Program Impact:** The aggregated numbers should provide ample enrollment for an additional MPA Program cohort to be offered at the Evergreen-Tacoma site and enhance graduate offerings to increased underrepresented students. This would serve to greater diversify management and leadership of agencies and municipalities in the public sector, non-profit organizations and businesses.
10. **Staff Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Interim Provost

\_\_\_\_\_ Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board of Trustees