

Master of Public Administration

Tribal Governance Concentration

2700 Evergreen Parkway NW

Olympia, Washington 98505

October 9, 2014

Dear *ENTER NAME HERE*,

Thank you for your note of inquiry. I hope that sending you an electronic version of our materials in lieu of sending you hard copies is acceptable for you, if not please inform me and I will be sure to send out hard copy brochures and pamphlets. Tribal Governance Concentration is the only MPA program in the United States that has been developed in coordination with local tribes to meet the needs of tribal communities. We have graduated scores of students who have gone on to careers as tribal government officials, professionals working in all levels of government agency, tribal liaisons, and leaders of non-profit and private sector organizations, all contributing to the advancement of indigenous peoples. Evergreen has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report as a top school for public affairs in its 2012 *Best Colleges* edition, noted in part because of the excellence of the Tribal Governance Concentration.

Our MPA program provides an exemplary education on issues affecting American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and international indigenous peoples. It includes leadership training, critical thinking and communication skills, opportunities for original research, public engagement, policy development and advocacy skills, alongside the knowledge needed to work effectively in Indian Country. Because our concentration is so unique, our students come from all over Turtle Island to participate and represent tribes that include Port Gamble S’Klallam, Yakama, Aleut, Swinomish, Lummi, Navajo, Nisqually, Tsimshian, Blackfeet, Squaxin Island, Paiute, Pawnee, Cree, Cherokee, Ojibwe, Lakota, Quinault and many more peoples.

The Tribal Governance admissions and curriculum cycles operate in a two year sequence. Curriculum in the first year begins with core courses in the discipline of public administration, and concentration courses focus on tribal sovereignty, intergovernmental relations, as well as tribal structures and organizations. During the second year, students develop fundamental skills in conducting original social research and practicing relevant, ethical research techniques in Indian country. They also continue to take tribal concentration courses such as *Tribal Economics* and *Tribal Policy* as well as elective courses. Some examples of elective courses include *Indigenous Justice Systems*, *Human Resource Policy*, *Natural Resource Policy*, and *Strategies for Cultural and Heritage Resource Funding*.The second year culminates with a capstone project that showcases the students’ skills in research, writing and presentation. A limited number of students are admitted to the concentration on an inter-year basis in-between the two year cycle.

The MPA-Tribal Governance Concentration was designed with working adults in mind. The classes are offered at the Olympia campus approximately every other weekend. The courses are scheduled in an intensive format on Friday afternoon, and all day Saturday and Sunday. In between the weekend classes, students are required to do online work. This allows students with full time jobs and family commitments to take part. It’s also ideal for students who live throughout the region, as they can travel to Olympia for weekend class a reasonable number of times per quarter.

The Evergreen State College is a unique institution of higher education that cultivates inter-disciplinary learning, learning across significant differences, and maintains a strong commitment to collaboration. At the end of each quarter, students are not awarded grades. Instead, students and faculty evaluate the work done through written narratives. Class sessions differ greatly from those offered by traditional colleges, in that lectures make up only part of the class time. A significant amount of class time is spent in seminar, in which students discuss the course material in a guided way, sharing their ideas, defending their positions, and learning how to integrate differences of opinion. Additionally, we utilize the resources provided by Evergreen’s *Enduring Legacies Native Case Studies,* which foster potent learning activities. Another unique feature of an Evergreen education is the ability to design your own individual study through independent learning contracts and real-world internship opportunities.

Evergreen is committed to indigenous scholars in a variety of ways. Through unique academic programs, including the MPA-Tribal Governance program, the Reservation-Based Community Determined Program, and the Native American and World Indigenous Peoples Studies curriculum; students get a world-class education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Accessing the campus public service centers, such as the Longhouse Education and Cultural Center – located within the Evergreen Longhouse “House of Welcome,” allows students to connect with local tribes and tribal organizations. First People’s Advising Service provides support services and the student organization Native Student Alliance gives indigenous students a voice on campus. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Master in Public Administration – Tribal Governance Program at the Evergreen State College. Here are some useful links to our program: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/home.htm> or you can view this link for specifics on the MPA Tribal Concentration Program: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/tribal/> I would be happy to speak with you about your academic goals and career aspirations to determine if our program would be a good fit for you. You can reach me at (360)867-6202 or at nihoap@evergreen.edu. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you’d like more information. Here are additional web-pages that will be very helpful to you as you move forward with you academics these sites are: **Statistics Requirement** <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/statisticsprerequisite> and the **Admission Requirements** <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/admissionsreq.htm> and finally the **Curriculum** link will allow you to review contents of the courses offered <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/tribal/curriculum.htm> . If you are interested in applying here is a link to our admission requirement and application: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/admission.htm> I look forward to connecting with you.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the Master in Public Administration – Tribal Governance Program at the Evergreen State College. I would be happy to speak with you about your academic goals and career aspirations to determine if our program would be a good fit for you.

*Sincerely,*

*Puanani Nihoa, MPA-Assistant Director*

*MPA Tribal Governance Concentration*

*(360) 867-6202*