

EVERGREEN

January 11, 2017

Kris Graap, Secretary
The Scottish Rite Scholarship Foundation of Washington
6830 NE Bothell Way, Suite C-421
Kenmore, WA 98028

Dear Kris:

I hope you're doing well. I heard recently from Randee Gibbons, the Assistant Director of our Master of Public Administration Program (MPA), that the Foundation is considering funding a scholarship for a full-time student in our program. I was pleased to hear this and wanted to reach out to you and the Foundation to share my experience as a former Scottish Rite Fellow as well as some thoughts on the value of our MPA program to our current and future students.

As I believe Randee mentioned to you, I received a Foundation Fellowship to George Washington University's MPA program in 1980, and it's not an exaggeration to say that the award changed my life. Not only did I gain a fine education through GW's academic program, but also made lifelong friends of many of the other Fellows from throughout the country—most of us lived at the same residence hall in the heart of Washington, D.C., a few blocks from the White House. The program at GW was great preparation both for a very enjoyable 12 year career as a public administrator with the US Department of Agriculture and for my further education at the doctoral level. I lived for 13 years in the other Washington, which was an amazing experience in its own right. In 1994 I was selected for a faculty position at Evergreen with the MPA program, where I have been ever since.

I'm pleased to be able to say that our MPA program is dramatically stronger now than it was when I arrived. We restructured the program about 15 years ago, in the process creating three concentrations (Public Policy, Tribal Governance, and Public and Nonprofit Administration) and a clearer focus on critical thinking, analytical skills, and social justice. We have around 120 students enrolled and the quality of our applicants seems to improve each year. We are attracting students who choose our program over MPA programs at the UW's Evans School and Seattle University thanks to our cohort model, the quality of our curriculum and teaching, and the opportunity to work closely with and get to know our faculty. And the feedback from employers in the South Sound region, notably from state government and the state legislature, is that our students match up well with the top graduates from those programs.

Most of our students are early to mid-career professionals who are paying tuition using a combination of loans, personal resources and some financial aid. The financial aid available to us through the college is relatively limited, and the Foundation's additional support would be tremendously helpful.

If you'd like to talk more about this, I'd be happy to. I'm available at geril@evergreen.edu and 360-556-1297.

Best wishes—



Larry Geri, DPA
Member of the Faculty
The Evergreen State College