

## Statement in Support of Honorary Degree Proposal for Senator John McCoy

The career of Senator John McCoy is rich with examples of extraordinary service to the people of the State of Washington, to the tribal nations of the Pacific Northwest, and to The Evergreen State College. The proposal approved enthusiastically from the faculty of the Masters in Public Administration Program calls for the college to award Senator McCoy with an honorary MPA degree in recognition of his career of service as a leader in state government, among the tribal peoples in the region, and as an inspiring educator at The Evergreen State College.

From his work in **establishing the statewide *Since Time Immemorial* curriculum**, to the foundational role he played in creating the **Tribal Leaders Congress in Education**, Senator McCoy has led major initiatives to strengthen Native student education, at all levels.

He has also provided exceptional leadership in his role as a member of the faculty at Evergreen. We acknowledge his years of unwavering support for the College through his work at the Legislature. His critical role and initial investment from the Tulalip Tribes led to the **establishment of the Tribal Governance concentration in our Master in Public Administration program**. Many of the graduates of this program have become important leaders in tribal organizations and state government.

Our students have benefited greatly from his wisdom and experience as **an adjunct member of the faculty in the MPA program**. We also appreciate how he has fostered the next generation of state and tribal leadership by providing **legislative staff and internship positions for Evergreen students and alumni over the years**.

Senator McCoy played an important role in supporting our *Enduring Legacies Native Cases Initiative* which is now the largest Native case collection in the US. One of the first cases, *Waiting Patiently*, tells the story of his strong leadership to pass **House Bill 1495, which initiated Native curriculum reform in K-12, and eventually became required in our schools**. **Tribal Compact Schools were yet another accomplishment** that benefitted from his support and bears his signature.

More recently, Senator McCoy became **co-chair of the Longhouse's Fund Development Council**, and his personal contributions helped complete the capital campaign for the **new carving studio** as part of Evergreen's Indigenous Arts Campus. The Indigenous Arts Campus provides educational opportunities for Evergreen students and local, regional and international tribal artists.

### Brief Biography of Senator John McCoy

- Served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force before retiring in 1981.
- Served as a computer operations manager and programmer technician in the [White House](#) from 1982 to 1985 before leaving to start a career in the private sector.
- First elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 2002, McCoy served five terms there before being appointed to the Senate in 2013. Voters elected him to that position in 2014 and 2018. And since 2016, McCoy has held a leadership role, serving as the Senate Democratic Caucus Chair.
- Currently serves as General Manager of [Quil Ceda Village](#), the tribe's new municipality established in 2001. It included a gaming casino and business park. In 2005 the tribe also opened a 125-store retail outlet, all part of its efforts to diversify the tribe's economy and provide new jobs.