Welcome Remarks

MPA Summer Institute

July 13, 2020

[INTRO SLIDE]

Good afternoon and welcome to The Evergreen State College’s Master of Public Administration Program annual Summer Institute. I begin our time together today by acknowledging the Medicine Creek Treaty Tribes of Squaxin Island, Nisqually, and Puyallup, upon whose land the Evergreen State College stands. I extend respect to all Native people from the many Native Nations present.

I am Mike Craw, faculty and director of Evergreen’s MPA program. It is my pleasure to be a co-host for our 5th annual MPA Summer Institute. I thank all of you for being here today. We recognize that your time and expertise are scarce resources and we appreciate that you are willing to share both with us today. I also would like to thank my co-host, Dr. Meghan Doughty, for helping to organize today’s event and for helping to facilitate today’s discussion. And I want to also thank our other MPA faculty and staff who are here today to engage our discussion: Dr. Cali Ellis, Assistant Director’s Puanani Nihoa and Marcia Zitzelman, and MPA Program Assistant Dhara Katz. I also want to thank Evergreen’s Learning and Teaching Commons, which sponsors all of Evergreen’s Summer Institutes.

I should mention as we start that we are not recording today’s session. But Meghan, our MPA staff, and I will be taking notes during our session today so that we can have a record of your ideas to use in our program’s planning process.

[GOALS SLIDE]

Our MPA program’s motto is “Be the Change.” The Summer Institute provides the opportunity for the faculty and staff of our program to learn more about how we can “be the change” in the communities we serve: for state and local government, nonprofit organizations, and tribal nations in Washington State. We seek to fill this mission in a number of ways, the most important of which is to teach public administration professionals what they need to know to lead us as we navigate the many challenges we face. We can only do this effectively if we have input from those of you here who are confronting these challenges every day. An important goal of the Summer Institute, then, is for us to discover what knowledge, skills, and abilities are most critically needed for PA professionals today.

Our second goal in the Summer Institute is to identify possible opportunities for our faculty, staff, and students to serve the community. An important part of our MPA program’s curriculum is service learning, learning by doing. Every MPA student is required to complete an applied research project as their capstone experience for the program. Often this is a project carried out in collaboration with a tribal nation or public or nonprofit agency. In addition, many of our MPA students are required to complete an internship as part of their learning. We are interested in learning more about how we can align these parts of our program with the needs in the public and nonprofit sectors. In addition, as a public institution, Evergreen faculty are a resource that public agencies and nonprofit institutions can tap for technical assistance and applied research. We would like to know more about how we can do this more effectively.

We have organized our agenda for today to meet these two goals:

[AGENDA SLIDE]

1. In a few minutes, I will ask each of you to introduce yourselves:

Name

Position and organization

Your relationship with the MPA program (if any)

One thing that has surprised you or that you have learned from working in public service as result of the covid-19 pandemic or the Black Lives Matter movement

1. Share additional reflections you have on how Covid-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement have affected the public and nonprofit sectors in Washington
2. Separate into five breakout sessions to consider these three questions:

1) What knowledge, skills, and abilities do new professional hires in your agency or organization need that they currently do not possess?

2) In what ways can the faculty and student expertise be better leveraged to serve the needs of Evergreen's community partners?

3) What professional training and development needs exist that can be filled by a new ancillary graduate program to MPA?

1. Come back together to discuss ideas that came from the breakout sessions and other ways the MPA program can support our communities.
2. Meeting wrap-up

I will start our introductions with myself. After you introduce yourself, please name a person in the room who has not introduced themselves to go next.

--- Director of the MPA program this year and faculty member, specializing in urban management, public finance, and public policy

--- Have just completed my first year as director of Evergreen’s MPA program. Previously was faculty at the UA Little Rock MPA program.

--- Had to make a pretty rapid transition to remote instruction and to remote management of the MPA program in March to comply with the state’s stay at home order. Have learned that Zoom meetings have some significant advantages in boosting participation. In-person meetings in some implicit ways filter out who can attend a meeting and who cannot. Have been pondering the implications of this for whose voices we tend to hear at meetings.

Next: Meghan

[COMPLETE INTRODUCTIONS]

**Discussion question**

Thank you for telling us a little about yourselves. A key reason for my request that you tell us something about how your organization has experienced Covid-19 and/or BLM is that both are events that will have long term implications for how we work as public servants in Washington. Before we move into breakout rooms, I would like to hear from you about the types of new challenges that have come up for your organization?

Follow up prompt: What is needed in terms of research or teaching to effectively address the challenges you have experienced?

**Breakout Sessions**

For the next part of the Institute, we will divide into breakout sessions.

Each session will be facilitated by a member of the MPA program’s faculty and staff:

Meghan

Marcia

Puanani

Dhara

Myself

In your group, please consider each of these three questions:

1) What knowledge, skills, and abilities do new professional hires in your agency or organization need that they currently do not possess?

2) In what ways can the faculty and student expertise be better leveraged to serve the needs of Evergreen's community partners?

3) What professional training and development needs exist that can be filled by a new ancillary graduate program to MPA?

The facilitator will keep notes on a Word document (facilitators, please be sure to share this in the meeting).

Each group should identify one person to report out on behalf of the group when we return at 3:00.

Do not worry if you do not get to all three questions. You can feel free as a group as well to skip a question if something seems more important to discuss.

We will return at 3:00

**Plenary session**

**Concluding remarks**

One final bit of housekeeping before we go: we would like to ask that you take a few minutes to complete an evaluation of today’s institute. That evaluation will come to you via email following the meeting.

Teaching public administration through a social equity lens in a meaningful way requires that an MPA program address the key challenges in social and economic equity in our society. Not just in the classroom but in the community. Students learn best by doing in public administration, such as in the capstone projects students in the program complete each spring. This past year, students in our program completed capstone projects on community disaster preparedness and resilience, water resource management, huckleberry preservation on federal lands, and tribal parks management, veterans treatment courts, equity in school board races, equity in public sector hiring, and local economic development.

Reinforcing our collaboration is one thing I hope will come out of our meeting today. We cannot work effectively as an MPA program without understanding the needs of the governments, organizations, and communities we serve. And so I want to thank you again for being with us today to assist us in this process.

This concludes today’s MPA Summer Institute.