Subject: The Future of the Tribal MPA Program Jan 8, 2020

MIchael and Puanani;

 Thanks for having lunch with me today to discuss the future of the Tribal MPA program. I am sending this email to both of you to confirm our understanding of historical origins and goals of the tribal program and the next steps to ensure that these goals are achieved in the future.

 The tribal MPA program was initiated in 2000 when the Muckleshoot and Tulalip tribes each committed $100,000 to Evergreen to fund a Higher Ed program that would equip tribal students in the Northwest. They knew that tribal students needed the knowledge and professional skills to assist the elected leaders of Tribal Nations to manage their tribal governments in the 21st Century. In response to this tribal commitment, Senator Patty Murray took steps to provide that $250,000 in matching funds would be available to Evergreen in the US Dept of Ed budget for FY 2000 and beyond.

 I joined Evergreen Professor Linda Moon Stumpff in designing curriculum that would be integrated into the TESC MPA program. Beginning in 1999, Linda and I prepared a survey instrument for tribal officials asking them to rank which topics and questions were critical, in their view, to the effective management of tribal governments. The survey was administered at different meetings and conferences, including the ATNI and classes were started in the Fall of 2000. Our first class of tribal students graduated with an MPA degree in 2002.

 Linda also took steps to initiate an "intensive weekend" schedule of classes in order to accommodate students who would be commuting from their homes in tribal communities scattered across the state in order to attend class. She had earned her PhD in Public Administration at USC where such intensive weekend classes were offered to mid-career federal and state government officials who commuted from homes and job sites across the West. I had joined the faculty after practicing law in Wash DC from 1972 to 1997. For much of my legal career I had focused on the legal rights of tribal sovereignty and the exercise of the rights of tribal self-governance.

 Perhaps Puanani can find copies of this survey. I recommend that you take advantage of the opportunity to administer an updated survey at the upcoming ATNI conference in Portland which is schedules for Jan 27-30, 2020 at the Doubletree Hilton. As you know, I am also planning to attend the conference I would be happy to assist you in administering the survey.