

SUMMARY OF A PROPOSAL FROM THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE FOR A MASTER'S
PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDIES. APRIL 16, 1981

WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT OUR INDUSTRIALIZED ECONOMY CREATES HIGH DEMANDS FOR NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS FUELS, WATER, TIMBER, SOIL, AND MINERALS. THE NECESSARY USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES FREQUENTLY DAMAGES THE ABILITIES OF LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS TO SUPPORT LIFE. MOREOVER, MANY OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCES, SUCH AS FOSSIL FUELS, ARE DIMINISHING AND WE MUST FIND NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY TO REPLACE THEM. EDUCATION OF APPROPRIATELY TRAINED INDIVIDUALS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR WAYS WE CAN ACCOMMODATE THE NEED FOR BETTER UTILIZATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

EVERGREEN'S PROPOSED PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDIES WILL TRAIN PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND THE USE OF RESOURCES IN A BROAD ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIOPOLITICAL CONTEXT. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL FILL POSITIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE AS AMERICAN SOCIETY COMES UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO MANAGE ITS HERITAGE MORE EFFICIENTLY.

THE GOAL OF OUR PROPOSED PROGRAM IS TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AT THE MASTER'S DEGREE LEVEL. FAR TOO OFTEN, ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ARE SEPARATED INTO "TECHNICAL" AND "SOCIAL" COMPONENTS. SOLUTIONS ARE THEN GENERATED BY DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE, BUT OFTEN IT IS DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO MERGE THE SEPARATE PROPOSALS INTO A PACKAGE THAT WORKS IN REAL LIFE. WE WILL TEACH ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY JOINTLY AND IN A COORDINATED FASHION. EVERGREEN'S SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE WITH INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK AT THE UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL GIVES US CONFIDENCE THAT WE CAN PROVIDE AN UNUSUAL AND HIGH QUALITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL THAT WILL MEET A SERIES OF IMPORTANT SOCIAL NEEDS.

STUDENTS ADMITTED TO THE PROGRAM WILL NEED TO HAVE A RIGOROUS BACKGROUND EITHER IN THE NATURAL OR SOCIAL SCIENCES PLUS SOME WORK IN BOTH. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT ENTERING STUDENTS TAKE STATISTICS AND CALCULUS. STUDENTS WITH A BACKGROUND IN THE HUMANITIES, GENERAL STUDIES, OR WITH EXTENSIVE WORK-RELATED EXPERIENCE WILL BE CONSIDERED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

ONCE IN THE PROGRAM, STUDENTS WILL COMPLETE EACH OF THREE CURRICULAR COMPONENTS. FIRST, THEY MUST PARTICIPATE IN A CORE EXPERIENCE THAT INCLUDES WORK IN ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES, RESOURCE ANALYSIS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM-SOLVING. THE CORE ALSO INCLUDES WORK IN STATISTICS AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY. SECOND, EACH STUDENT MUST SELECT A SPECIALTY AREA, EITHER (1) LAND AND WATER RESOURCES OR (2) ENERGY RESOURCES. STUDENTS PURSUE THEIR SPECIALTY AREA BY SELECTING A SERIES OF PRESCRIBED ELECTIVES. THIRD, STUDENTS WILL CAP THEIR EXPERIENCE BY DESIGNING AND COMPLETING A PROJECT. PROJECTS WILL NORMALLY BE SERVICE-ORIENTED WORK DONE FOR A RECOGNIZED GROUP OUTSIDE OF THE COLLEGE. THE PROJECT WILL GIVE THE STUDENT AN EXPERIENCE OF WORKING ON A TEAM ON THE SOLUTION OF A REAL PROBLEM WITH REAL TIME CONSTRAINTS. IN TERMS OF THE COLLEGE'S EXPERIENCE, WE BELIEVE THE PROJECT EXPERIENCE WILL BE AN EXTRA PLUS FOR OUR GRADUATES WHEN THEY ENTER THE JOB MARKET.

WE PLAN TO ADMIT APPROXIMATELY 35 STUDENTS EACH YEAR BEGINNING IN THE FALL OF 1982. ELEVEN WILL BE FULL-TIME WHILE 24 ARE PART-TIME. WE ANTICIPATE THAT OUR EQUILIBRIUM SIZE WILL BE ABOUT 60 STUDENTS. THIS SIZE STUDENT BODY REQUIRES 5.66 FACULTY FTE. ONCE WE REACH EQUILIBRIUM SIZE, OUR GRADUATING CLASS WILL BE ABOUT 32 STUDENTS PER YEAR.

OUR OWN ALUMNI, AND GRADUATES OF OTHER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WILL

PROVIDE A POOL OF APPLICANTS FROM WHICH WE CAN SELECT A WELL-QUALIFIED, HIGHLY MOTIVATED STUDENT BODY. A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THEM WILL BE PART-TIME STUDENTS WHO ALREADY HOLD A JOB. MANY OF THEM WILL BE ABLE TO USE THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED SKILLS TO UPGRADE THE PROFESSIONAL QUALITY OF THEIR WORK. OTHERS WILL MOVE INTO NEW POSITIONS. ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROJECT THE EXACT SIZE OF THE FUTURE JOB MARKET, WE BELIEVE THAT INCREASING NEEDS FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES WILL REQUIRE THE TYPE OF DEGREE HOLDER WE WILL TRAIN.