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The Everett Human Services Program: Alumni Attitudes and Perceptions

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Report 1993-01: The Everett Human Services Program: Alumni Attitudes and Perceptions

This report was based on tabulated results of 46 completed survey forms returned by a sample of 147 Everett Human Services graduates in 1991. General survey results and written comments are reported. The sample of graduate respondents was made up of 38 women and 8 men, mostly Caucasian, with an average age of over 42 years. This preponderance of females and older students reflects the usual population of the Human Services Program at Everett, (HSP/Ev).

Enrollees in the HSP/Ev enter with a required AA degree, most earned in Washington State community colleges. Many respondents had been away from higher education for many years and had human services work experience before starting the program. Following graduation, nearly all respondents (80.0%) were working full or part time in human services jobs in the Everett/Snohomish County area. Most were in first-line/direct service positions, working with individuals and groups, and fewer in mid-management administration and supervision positions.

While respondents worked with a wide variety of clients, most clients could be grouped as Caucasian, living at or below the poverty line, and often in female-headed families. Moreover, many were elderly, criminal, or physically or psychologically disabled.

Academic preparation by the Human Services Program was rated highly by its graduates. The instructors in particular received very high marks. While most respondents (71.7%) planned to pursue advanced education, 13% were currently enrolled in master's programs, and 4.5% had already earned master's degrees.

Professional preparation was also rated very highly. Respondents found the internship component particularly valuable. They reported a high level of satisfaction in the work they do, but indicated less satisfaction

with opportunities for advancement and salary increases. A third expected to be working in another field within ten years, while the other two-thirds considered it likely, though not definite, that they will still be working in the human services field within that time.

Personal growth and development, an express goal of the HSP/Ev, was rated extremely highly by the respondents. They indicated the program contributed to their maturing as members of society, their learning to communicate effectively, their developing abilities to deal with life changes, and their finding satisfying meanings for their lives.