



Office of the President

John Carmichael, Ph.D.

Dear Evergreen Community,

While we continue to wait for the results of the State Patrol's investigation into Jonathan Rodriquez's death, we are working to address issues that the tragedy brought to light. Specifically, we are addressing maintenance needs in student housing and building better communication channels with students.

Steady progress has been made with regard to safety inspections and maintenance in campus housing. Here are some updates since last week's communication:

- The college has 14 apartment buildings. These buildings include 84 apartments with 403 bedrooms. To date, 300 bedrooms have been inspected. All remaining units will be inspected no later than January 30, 2024.
- The inspections have included assessing heating, electrical, and fire systems; potential water intrusion areas (bathrooms, under the sinks, window frames, ceilings, and floors) and mildew; ventilation; windows; door security; and appliances. Work orders have been submitted to address each finding one by one.
- Addressing the heating systems, which includes reviewing ventilation and window replacements, is our priority. We are hiring a contractor to assist with the heating systems.
- We have not found anything that warrants moving students out of these living spaces, but if we find anything that does, we will take immediate action.
- In preparation for Fall Quarter 2024 occupancy, planning for the renovation of Building C is continuing on schedule.

At the same time, members of college leadership have been connecting with student groups to improve communication. Updates include:

- A member of the Geoduck Student Union will start joining the college's Senior Leadership Team at their regularly scheduled meetings. Having a student voice at the table will be valuable to the whole college.
- The Geoduck Student Union's representative to the Board of Trustees is connecting with Board Chair Karen Fraser and Student Trustee Onya Robertson.

- The Geoduck Student Union named two of its members to work with the dean of students to support the Residential and Dining student worker program.
- Dr. Dexter Gordon has received the open letter published by a student in the *Cooper Point Journal* and, in addition to offering to meet that student in person to discuss their concerns, will provide a response to the *Cooper Point Journal* for its consideration.
- College staff continue to maintain the memorial mural to Jonathan outside of Evans Hall.

While we are making progress, more remains to be done. I will continue to provide updates each Wednesday, or sooner if we have time-sensitive items to share. In the meantime, please continue to send your questions and comments to community-response@evergreen.edu and visit www.evergreen.edu/campustragedy for more information and resources.

Sincerely,

John Carmichael, President

The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway, NW, Olympia, WA 98505



evergreen