

Center for Community-Based Learning and Action

EVERGREEN

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

2010 Fall Newsletter



Students loading up the van with TCFB Gleaners

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www.evergreen.edu/communitybasedlearning

CCBLA is Evergreen's Service Learning Center.
We address social issues while strengthening and enhancing student experience by supporting our communities' ability to meet critical needs.

The People's Fair

SOS Community-Based Learning Theory to Practice Fall 2010

Ellen Shortt Sanchez, Director

PROGRAMS

- **Gateways for Incarcerated Youth** - Since 1996, Gateways has served to educate, empower and support young people with innovative cultural diversity and learning programs that build self-esteem, confidence and the ability to pursue dreams.
- **Students in Service** - Tuition awards for community work, an AmeriCorps program for students (WA Campus Compact).
- **CSP/HED Work-study positions at community organizations** - Building links between TESC and the community at large (HECB funded).
- **High Demand Math and Science** - classroom support positions at local high schools (HECB funded).
- **Tutor Project** - Tutors for high poverty elementary schools in Olympia (Youth in Service).
- **Action Days** - Providing community engagement opportunities for students.
- **Project Planning** - Supporting students and faculty looking for community connections.

On December 1 students in 'SOS: Community Based Learning Theory to Practice' worked with faculty Pete Bohmer to organize workshops and presentations on a wide variety of issues they had worked on during fall quarter. The model opened the campus to the larger community and included student-community presenter teams. Students worked hard to put their solidarity in action and create a new way to share their culminating work.

SOS Community Based learning students represent the best of higher education; their learning supported community organizations, community problem solving and positive social change. Faculty will be sponsoring SOS learning again in winter and spring and together we hope to continue a forum for public presentations of community work like the people's fair.

I also want to honor the community activists and community partners that work with Evergreen to make things happen in our community. Many grassroots organizations work hard with limited resources and invest in supporting student learning and collaboration. It is our hope that CCBLA is contributing to and extending this hard work by being a true partner.

Community Based Learning gives higher education a mandate to be a part of our communities, to use our resources, innovation and action to work on issues like equitable immigration policy and justice for

working people. Students have contributed to these issues and to our neighbors' hard work in grassroots non profit organizations.

CCBLA is a public service center that supports service learning. Another model of local community problem solving supported by the CCBLA is popular education. This adult education model recognizes the knowledge in lived experience that can inform collective action toward social change. The Center for Community-Based Learning and Action (CCBLA) at The Evergreen State College is committed to facilitating community problem solving. Over many years students, staff and faculty have championed local solutions to community problems.

CCBLA has a mission to "support the partnership of academic programs, students, and faculty, with community organizations and meet mutually agreed upon community needs to strengthen and enhance student learning through critical engagement".

CCBLA and Gateways Staff

Director: Ellen Shortt Sanchez

VISTA Community Partnership Catalyst: Andrea Robbins

CYS AmeriCorps Tutor & Mentor Coordinator: Rosie Math

Sustainability & Service Learning Coordinator: Andreas Keodara

High Employer Demand (HED) Manager: Lauren Kreutzer

SIS Coordinators: Kasey Rafter & Yoshi Nagata

CCBLA Newsletter Coordinator: Hilary Hacker

Retention AmeriCorps Gateways Challenge Coordinator: Alvina Wong

Retention AmeriCorps Gateways Cultural: Oscar Overlund-Petros

Gateways MPA Fellow: Emily Sladek

Gateways Faculty: Chico Herbison



With Dignity

Jamie Alwine & Kaitlyn Lucas
SOS Students & Bridges Not Walls Interns

Through Peter Bohmer's Student Originated Studies program, Community-Based Learning and Theory, Kaitlyn Lucas and I were provided the opportunity, with support from the CCBLA, to complete an in-program internship with an amazing organization, Bridges Not Walls. Bridges Not Walls is an organization of community members dedicated to addressing the human rights aspect of immigration reform and is made up of hard-working people from the Olympia and Shelton area.

During the fall quarter, Kaitlyn, Hilary Hacker (member of Bridges Not Walls) and I created a short documentary entitled, "With Dignity". This documentary addressed the issues of past and present immigration legislation through the eyes of community organizers and members from around the Pacific Northwest. When looking at these pieces of legislation, and seeing how they affect people within our communities, it was alarmingly clear that the dignity and basic human rights of the people most affected by these laws were completely disregarded by policymakers.

The necessity for a grassroots effort to bring people's dignity into the writing of legislation sparked The Dignity Campaign. The Dignity Campaign began in California and has just begun its first dialogues here in the South Sound. Bridges Not Walls has been a part of two Dignity Dialogues in the Shelton area, and facilitated another in Olympia. Kaitlyn, Hilary and I were able to show our film at the Dialogues in Olympia, which was a very educational opportunity. We received important feedback on our film and the support to continue a series of Dialogues with the community.

Being a part of the SOS program and working with the CCBLA has, undoubtedly, provided us with important opportunities this last quarter. We are excited to continue our relationship with the CCBLA and to strengthen the ties we now have with our community. For more information on Bridges Not Walls and The Dignity Campaign, contact us at [bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net!](mailto:bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net)



Interns with Bridges Not Walls; Hilary Hacker, Jamie Alwine, Kaitlyn Lucas, Jean Eberhart, Kelsey Weller, Joshua Elliott and Jenny Blumenstien after a meeting!

Students in Service (SIS)

Sarah Nishioka, Evergreen Student
Kasey Rafter, SIS Coordinator

"I want to express my thanks to you and SIS. I sense a growth in myself- I recognize that service and volunteerism is a way of life. It is in my family life, my community life, my church life, and my tribal life (I imagine that we are all part of a tribe!). Volunteerism truly exists on all levels for the benefit of all; I especially recognize the benefit to myself. Growing a joyful heart of giving is quite the life path. Building community- seems to involve continual investment, commitment to the strategy, and doing it!"

~Sarah Nishioka

Sarah Nishioka a Students in Service member, has been working with the Women Federation for World Peace and has just finished her second 900-hour term of service with the Students in Service program. Sarah has served over 1800 hours in the last two years with the Students in Service program. Sarah has been providing service for the WFWP in leadership training, organizing group meetings and seminars, conducting presentations on family health and relationships, and networking with women organizations and groups as well as outreach and education to women. Sarah's service is greatly appreciated by the students in service program.

Students in Service Awards

For more information about Students in Service (SIS)

Contact Kasey or Yoshi

867.6866 or sis@evergreene.edu

www.studentsinservice.org

CCBLA & Strategic Planning

Cindy Meyer, MPA Student

How does an organization focus its energy and resources in a way that best achieves its mission? One tool is a process called strategic planning. CCBLA spent time over spring and summer beginning this planning process.

Evergreen's Center for Community-Based Learning and Action promotes student learning that responds to our communities' critical needs by connecting academic programs, students, and faculty with community organizations.

Key goals:

1. Promote Student Accountability
2. Track Community Impact
3. Enhance CCBLA's Connections to Faculty and Curriculum

These goals are met by: Supporting Community Partners, Facilitating Student Learning, Promoting Higher Education Leadership

CCBLA has a long-term mission to "promote student learning that responds to our communities' critical needs . . ." The 90,000 hours invested by students since 2004 are growing daily as CCBLA invests time, energy, and resources to programs that fulfill its mission.

High Employer Demand Grant Project at Thurston Community Television

Lauren Kreutzer, HED Manager & Student

Thurston Community Television (TCTV) has partnered with CCBLA's High Employer Demand (HED) Grant for the second year to help at-risk youth gain 21st Century Learning skills.

This year's program, called "Unsung Heroes," encourages life-long learning, improves problem solving capabilities and empowers young people to share their voices using digital media.

Colt Hansen is this year's TCTV HED Work Study Intern. Together with Peter Epperson, TCTV's Community Initiatives Manager, Colt has produced an innovative and sustainable digital storytelling program.

As part of this year's work plan, Colt has begun recruiting and reaching out to at-risk populations in Thurston County. The tangible outcome of *Unsung Heroes* is a collection of digital stories created by young producers which will air twice monthly on TCTV Channels.

Gateways for Incarcerated Youth

Emily Sladek, Gateways MPA Fellow

We have welcomed our new Gateways team; Dr. Chico Herbison, Faculty, Alvina Wong, AmeriCorps Challenge Program Coordinator & Oscar Overlund-Petros, AmeriCorps Cultural Group Coordinator!

Gateways has four interns, Chantal, Jean, Rebecca, and Jackie. They are studying and compiling resources for transition, gardening at Maple Lane and Green Hill, and working with the Native Cultural Identity Groups. Three MPA students, John, Cindy and Emily, are completing their class requirements by evaluating the Gateways College Class. During Fall quarter they designed a survey to give College Class alumni. They will continue working with Gateways through Spring quarter.

Gateways was again honored by the work of Dalya Perez, Academic Advisor, and Norma Alicia Pino, Director for First Peoples Advising Services, as they lead the Fourth Annual JRA Retreat for staff who work with the Cultural Identity Groups at the institutions. Fifteen staff from Maple Lane, Green Hill, and Naselle Youth Camp participated and were joined by Evergreen staff and students throughout the day. Norma Alicia and Dalya created an exciting space to talk about successes, challenges, and ideas for the Cultural Identity Groups.

Goodbye Maple Lane! Due to continued cuts in the Washington State budget the timeline for Maple Lane's closure has been moved from July 2013 to July 2011. Maple Lane is Gateways flagship institution and partnership. Gateways and Maple Lane have been providing educational and cultural programming to incarcerated youth for 15 years. Several of our incarcerated youth are being transferred to other facilities or group homes or released back to their home communities. Please think of the incarcerated youth during this season as many of them are moving and experiencing new living situations.

Sustainability and STEM Field

Andreas Keodara, MES Student & Sustainability and Service Learning Coordinator



Gleaning Cabbage at Helsing Junction Farm with the TCFB Gleaners

CCBLA recently received a WA Campus Compact Learn and Serve grant to develop and improve links between sustainability, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) students and service learning at Evergreen. While Evergreen has its fair share of STEM field students, their visibility in the service learning community tends to be lower than students of other disciplines. In working towards making this visibility greater, we have increased the frequency of sustainability-themed ACTION Days and are pleased to have experienced great progress in our efforts thus far.

In October's ACTION Day, CCBLA participated in the 10-10-10 Global Work Party day to celebrate climate solutions by teaming up with 350.org and the Washington State Department of Transportation to plant 200 trees at McLane School. The number of community volunteers, over 10 from Evergreen, was so great that the project finished much earlier than expected – what a successful event!

November included two ACTION Days, one with the Thurston County Food Bank (TCFB) and the other, with Growing Places Farm and Energy Park (GPFEP) in Centralia. Our Gleaning ACTION Day with TCFB at the Helsing Junction Farm produced 20 crates of fresh organic produce, nearly 10 varieties, that were picked, cleaned, prepared, and stocked. Students were able to see their hard work's direct impact as they observed clientele shopping at the TCFB. The second November ACTION Day had students working alongside at-risk youth farm staff at GPFEP weeding out garden beds and preparing compost piles.

Our efforts also include promoting community events and internships by working with organizations such as People for Puget Sound, Capitol Land Trust and Northwest EcoBuilding Guild. From restoration projects in local habitats to increasing efficiency in homes around the Olympia area, we are continually seeking community opportunities that will enable STEM field students to utilize their skills and knowledge while involving themselves in service learning. So, students, faculty, staff, and community organizations – contact us at ccbla@evergreen.edu or (360) 867-6866 to get involved in these sustainability and STEM field service learning efforts.

21st Annual Community to Community

Andrea Robbins, VISTA, Community Partnership Catalyst



Students with CIELO Board Members at Radio Ranch

The CCBLA kicked off this fall with Evergreen's 21st annual Community to Community Day. This year 12 organizations throughout Thurston County, from Rochester to our campus neighborhood, hosted groups of Evergreen Students. They engaged in everything from farming with Lincoln's School Garden, to restoring our local environment with People for Puget Sound. Students also painted the new office at Stonewall Youth, did maintenance work at CIELO, and sent books to incarcerated people around the country with Books to Prisoners. Every year this event has been effective in drawing out more than 120 students to take action in our community.

C2C is a great opportunity for first year students to get out in the community during Orientation Week. Not only does the event serve small organizations through volunteer projects, but also enhances the experience for incoming freshmen. Exposing first year students to the community as soon as they arrive at Evergreen improves the likelihood of them being involved throughout the year. Those who took advantage of C2C this year overwhelmingly responded with excitement and energy to participate in volunteer work again. While gleaned vegetables for the food bank, working on a shed for Circle Hawk Farm, and helping clean our local rivers with Water Resources, they got to share an experience with each other during the critical time of entering college. This year, the program Community Connections participated in the event. The group made up about half of the total attendance for the event. Students who make this connection with the community and with each other contribute to a sense of community within Evergreen and beyond.

The CCBLA & Gateways staff would like to thank

Tony Zaragoza
Samantha Franks
Aaron Lee
Lauren Kreutzer
For all their work with us!

Community Connections

Rosie Math, CYS AmeriCorps Tutor & Mentor Coordinator

Community Connections is a two credit course designed to support freshmen who are transitioning into college life. The basis for the class is to equip new college students with tools to take responsibility for their own education, set goals, and identify pathways for self directed learning. The class included workshops on time management, the importance of self evaluations, and what a transcript looks like when it's complete. The students were also linked up with mentors who participated in the class, and were encouraged to meet with students outside of the class on a bi-monthly basis. Having the mentors in the class room allowed students to seek guidance on classes, teachers, personal relationships, and how to survive the first quarter of college.

Speaking as a mentor in Community Connections and as someone who has already graduated Evergreen, I was especially amazed by all of the insight that came out of the transcript workshop. Throughout my years at Evergreen, I had never seen what an actual transcript looks like before the Community Connections class. I feel like Community Connections has given incoming freshmen the opportunity to be a step ahead of the game, and to start to think with more depth about what they want to get out of attending a Liberal Arts school like Evergreen.

The fabulous Community Connections team was comprised of Elizabeth Williamson- (Academic Advisor, Professor in English Literature, Theater Studies) Sharon Goodman-(Director of RAD Services) Corey Leneker- (Academic Specialist, Trio Expansion Program) and six spectacular mentors; Hattie Osborne, Alexander Morley, Jayanika Lawrence, Ian Campbell, Rosie Math, Katherine Cox.



Students from Community Connections volunteer with People for Puget Sound on Community to Community Day!



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