



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY-BASED
LEARNING AND ACTION

WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Center for Community-Based Learning and Action (CCBLA)

A Public Service Center at The Evergreen State College connecting students, faculty, and community organizations since 2004

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING SUPPORTS PLACE-BASED SCHOLARSHIP TO EVERGREEN: SHELTON PROMISE

Shelton Promise is a college access effort. A pilot program, it makes a simple and direct offer to 2025 and 2026 graduates of Shelton high schools to “attend Evergreen for a four-year degree tuition-free. It also offers a stipend to help with additional costs and campus guidance.” A grant from the state Legislature funds the initiative that focuses resources on Shelton to increase local students who earn a four-year degree.

In October, Evergreen welcomed Monear Fatemi as the new full-time Shelton Promise Program Manager.

Monear (BA '07 / MiT '11) brings experience as a K-12 teacher in Shelton Schools and a deep understanding of Evergreen's teaching and learning strategies. Ellen Shortt Sanchez (BA '92 / MPA '10) joins the team as collaborator through CCBLA and is a Shelton community member.

They work together on community outreach and pulled together a Community Advisory Committee with community partners, youth advocates, and educators, and an “Evergreen Campus Advocates: Quarterly Gathering” in December.

Also in December, Jimena Flores Martinez, CCBLA AmeriCorps designed a wonderful art activity for youth and brought Evergreen's mascot Speedy to the CIELO Posadas at the Shelton YMCA.

We are excited to bring such a ‘good news’ program to our community and celebrate the opportunity to work with so many dedicated organizations and youth programs. We have met with many Shelton community partners including Sound Learning, CIELO, YMCA, Peninsula Credit Union, Shelton Timberland Library, HOPE Garden, Moving Mason Forward, Mason County Early Learning Coalition, Family Education and Support Services, SPIPA, Salish Roots Farm and Mason General Hospital.



Monear Fatemi, Shelton Promise Manager

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK STUDY & FELLOWSHIPS SUPPORT CURRENT GREENERERS

Students face increased costs of higher education and increased student debt. While studying, Community Based Learning students gain skills and learn how organizations work. Twelve non-profit organizations are hosting 19 students in CCBLA's Community Service Work Study for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Thanks to the host organizations: Meadow Moss Farm, Thurston County Food Bank, Salish Roots Farm, GRuB, Sound Learning, Crisis Clinic, Rachel Corrie Foundation, Kokua LEAD and Hummingbird, Thurston Housing Land Trust, New Horizon Communities-Quixote Communities, PIPE and Family Support Center. This year we have a student continuing as an Americorps fellow, who receives a tuition award after 300 hours of service. We are excited to have six Civic Engagement Fellows funded through Washington Campus Coalition for the Public Good.

Congrats to Annie Baker, Amber Harrison, Christine Young, Sequoia Gallatin, Iggy Ray Cello, Foster Mahoney, Iana Gordon, Vega Dawson, Mias Sandoval, Corey Spencer, Loyal Lowrance, Moriah Ruedenberg, Rhonda Dunnington, Amanda Strand, Cyrus Zarghami, Dreama Dowden, Cloe Kortangian – Griffith, Miyanga Que-Et-Sa, Osvaldo Calderon, Kelly Marie Dawson, Miguel Rodriguez, Andrew Winfree, Maria Atristain, Evan Wagoner-Lynch



(From left): Speedy at CIELO Shelton Posadas with Ellen Shortt Sanchez, Jimena Flores-Martinez.

CCBLA STAFF 2024-25

CCBLA Director.....	Ellen Shortt Sanchez
SOS CCBLA Faculty	Zoltan Grossman & Sonja Wiedenhaupt
Basic Needs Navigator	V Guardado
Community Service Work Study-Basic Needs Team	Iggy Cello & Sequoia Gallatin
Tacoma Basic Needs Lead	Christine Young
AmeriCorps Basic Needs Resource Coordinator	Rachel Espinoza Ortiz
AmeriCorps Mentor/Tutor Coordinator	Jimena Flores Martinez

SUPPORTING STUDENTS BASIC NEEDS: AN UPDATE FROM THE BASIC NEEDS CENTER

V Guardado

This past fall, Evergreen students participated in the Washington Students Experience Survey, also known as the Basic Needs Survey. This effort is a statewide initiative to gather data that can improve resources and strengthen advocacy to meet students' basic needs. The survey is just one piece of the larger work of the Basic Needs Center, a vital service at Evergreen supporting students and fostering community care.

There can be significant challenges to completing higher education that range from navigating academic life to coping with rising cost of living. To overcome these challenges requires support. We help students not only complete their education but thrive in the process. While the Basic Needs Center cannot solve every problem, it is a crucial resource to alleviate some of these pressures.

Here's a snapshot:

Food Bank Satellite Distribution

Fall 2023–Spring 2024: Distributed ~36,000 lbs. of food to 878 households
Fall 2024 to Date: Served 303 households

Increase in Student Appointments

Fall 2023–Spring 2024: 249 total appointments (93 in Fall 2023)
Fall 2024 to Date: 253 appointments already!

Washington Students Experience Survey

Achieved a top-three response rate among 45 participating colleges.
Survey results will be available soon, and we're excited to use this data to guide our focus and improve our services.

With updated survey data on the horizon, we look forward to strengthening our efforts. The Basic Needs Center is continually evolving and growing, and is made possible through the collective efforts of our community.

Donations, volunteers, and partnerships enable us to share the responsibility of care, advocacy, and resource distribution. As the Basic Needs Navigator, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our students, colleagues, faculty, staff, and community members who support this work. Addressing students' needs is a broad and ongoing effort. Together, we can provide essential services such as emergency food, resource navigation, and advocacy more effectively.



At Washington State Capitol during Post Secondary Lobby Day 2025
From left to right: Christine Young, V Guardado, Rachel Espinoza Ortiz,
Marc-Anthony Johnson, Sequoia Gallatin



EVERGREEN FOOD BANK SATELLITE



Thurston County Food Bank provides food distribution twice a month to our Olympia campus and the broader community. Washington Campus Coalition for the Public Good (WACC) AmeriCorps members, volunteers and student workers make it possible. Distributions happen every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 2pm-4pm within the Basic Needs Center at CAB 135.

Evergreen's Organic Farm partners with the Evergreen satellite campus food bank and supplements a considerable amount of produce during distribution. The food bank distribution uses an indoor shopping model. Visitors do a short check in at the door.

Distribution provides two types of grocery pick-up visits: Full or Supplemental (**Two Full visits per month, One Supplemental visit per week**) Please note that you may pick up groceries for someone else. In order to do so, you must always bring a dated note from that person specifically giving you permission to pick up their food and a copy or photo of their ID.



Winter Quarter Distributions:

Feb 11th & 25th
March 11th & 25th



@evergreenfoodbank



EVERGREEN ORGANIC FARM



Beth Leimbach

The Organic Farm has a long and proud history of supporting the on-campus food bank. Thanks to the hard work of students in the “Practice of Organic Farming” and “Winter Season Horticultural Practices” programs, along with farm aides, interns, faculty, and students from other Food and Ag Pathway programs. The Organic Farm grows high-quality organic produce, eggs, and value-added products. In 2024, over a ton of produce made its way to the Food Bank to help feed the Evergreen community.

What better way to tell the story of the farm than to hear from students. Here are just two of them:

Ember Summer has been working as a Farm Aide for the past two years. She writes, “It’s given me experience with day-to-day tasks and the varying needs of each season and offers an interactive side to farming classes. Students in the farming program, as well as those who just come by for the day or to visit, get to know where their food comes from, which is more important than ever for a changing environment and supply chain. In Evergreen’s desire for sustainability and food sovereignty, the Organic Farm is integral to creating that future.”

Bria Austin took the “Winter Season Horticultural Practices” and “Practice of Organic Farming” programs last year. She has started her fifth quarter at the farm, now as a Farm Intern, which requires more leadership and skill. “Working and learning on the farm is an essential part of The Evergreen State College experience,” she said, “In my eyes, it encompasses many wonderful things: community, friendship building and practical experience. You can see how your work directly impacts it. Being part of this farm has really showed me how much farming and implementing sustainable agriculture should be a backbone of society and that it should be treated with high respect. I think that it is an amazing that we can sell produce to students for half price. In that way we can support and impact our direct and neighboring communities.”

Volunteer at Organic Farm
Wednesday afternoons
between 2 and 5 p.m.
Visit our farm stand
April – November.
 Olympia Evergreen Campus



HOUSING CASE MANAGER

The Housing Case Manager facilitates access to the Student Support Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH) grant and provides resource referrals for students experiencing on in danger of housing insecurity, utility cut-off, or other housing-related emergencies.

Contact Housing Case
 Manager for more information
 or to make an appointment:
Lane Moss
lane.moss@evergreen.edu



MY LEARNING THROUGH SERVING COMMUNITY

Katherine J Mitchell

As a fourth year college student, I have grown and benefited from a decision in 2023 to attend a student interest meeting for WashPIRG. The Washington Public Interest Research Group is a student oriented non-partisan activist organization. I was looking for ways to get involved in activism. This decision led to my community-based volunteer work through the Basic Needs Center. Motivated by a need to serve my community, I became part of WashPIRG's Hunger Campaign, connecting me to the Basic Needs Center, and providing an accessible way to enact change and serve my community. Twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays the BNC hosts the Thurston County Satellite Food Bank. I volunteer to assist the set-up, running, and take down of the satellite food bank.

Skills that I polished through volunteering at the BNC include communication, social, marketing, and customer service. I am glad to say that CCBLA, the BNC and the Evergreen WashPIRG chapter all intersect to develop community and make a space for people to interact thoughtfully. Through WashPIRG I got connected with volunteering at the Basic Needs Center. The staff and fellow volunteers, often from La Familia, are always working to create an inclusive and open space to enter. I have enjoyed working alongside staff and volunteers and interacting with clients. Community Based Learning is vital to developing a strong community that can engage members and forge skills needed for collaboration and empathy. To ground people walking different paths into the present moment is part of the CCBLA's purpose.



GATEWAYS FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH

Zoey Knox

Last quarter in Gateways, the Olympia students got the opportunity to visit the Tacoma Art Museum to see a few exhibitions covering themes of identity, borders, fragmentation, and the spaces in between. After our visit, students connected the dots between what these artists were expressing and what they have experienced and witnessed in our work at Green Hill School, the youth prison in Chehalis where we have class once a week.

As an inside-out program, about half of the Gateways students are young men who are currently incarcerated at Green Hill, which means that they weren't able to join us at the Tacoma Art Museum to see the exhibitions themselves. Instead, we brought the art to them.

With help from students, I chose five artworks to showcase in a "gallery walk" in our classroom at Green Hill. The pieces ranged from fabric sculptures to large-scale paintings, and each explored culture, history, and identity in different ways. Photos of each piece were printed large and put up with the writing from the museum placards that went along with them. To get conversations started, I wrote discussion questions for each artwork, creating five separate stations for students to rotate through in our workshop.

In the gallery walk, students who had seen the art in person were paired up with students who hadn't, and each pair was given a stack of sticky notes on which to write down their thoughts and share them at each station. The hum of quiet conversations filled the air as the pairs took in each artwork and discussed what they saw. I couldn't help but feel, if only for a moment, that the disparate worlds of prison and museum were blurred together in this magical experience of collaborative creative analysis.

As we debriefed the activity together at the end, students shared powerful insights about what they saw in each piece and how this connected to their own lives. We talked about which pieces were confusing, which ones resonated most, and what we learned by looking closely. I hope to bring more experiences like this to Gateways in the future, with different artworks from different museums, as this workshop was undeniably impactful for every single person involved.

This is just one of many magical learning moments in Gateways. Each week, we dig into what it means to be lifelong learners and teachers, strong community members, and advocates for change. If you're interested in learning more about Gateways or looking to apply to join the next cohort this fall, reach out to **Zoey Knox** at Zoey.Knox2@evergreen.edu.



Red White Black & Blue: An Homage to African American Indigo (2021), Nikesha Breeze

AMERICORPS AT THE BASIC NEEDS CENTER

Rachel Espinoza Ortiz

After three AmeriCorps terms, I've grown so much and learned more than I ever expected. I have been in my role since April of 2022. A big part of my focus has been on expanding programs at the Basic Needs Center, especially since the pandemic. When I started, I honestly didn't know much about organizing on campus in a meaningful way, but thanks to AmeriCorps and the CCBLA, I've had so many opportunities to grow and learn.

Throughout my time with AmeriCorps, I've been part of some amazing movements around food justice and accessibility at Evergreen. I worked with the Thurston County Food Bank to coordinate its satellite distribution on campus, which we moved indoors in October 2023. I also helped students get connected to SNAP/EBT resources, collaborated with the Evergreen Organic Farm, and worked with student groups on campus. I organized coat drives in fall 2023, helped plan José Gómez Farmworker Justice Day, and coordinated volunteers for the Latinx Youth Summit. I've also spent time visiting classrooms and programs to spread the word about basic needs resources. None of this would've been possible without the support of the Evergreen community, my peers, my supervisor, and AmeriCorps.

Even though my AmeriCorps service is wrapping up, I'm not done here. I'm so grateful for everything I've experienced, and I plan to keep connecting with the Evergreen community and advocating for students' needs however I can.



Learn More about Gateways!

To apply for Gateways 2025-26
Contact Talib Williams
williade@evergreen.edu



AmeriCorps Service Member Rachel Espinoza Ortiz



LA FAMILIA: CELEBRATING LATINX CULTURE AND COMMUNITY AT THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

Maria Atristain

At The Evergreen State College, one of the most vibrant and inclusive student organizations is La Familia, a Latinx student club that brings together individuals from diverse Latinx backgrounds to celebrate culture, create a sense of community, and advocate for social justice. The group serves as both a social and activist hub, fostering connection and empowerment within the Latinx community while promoting cultural awareness across campus.

A Sense of Belonging

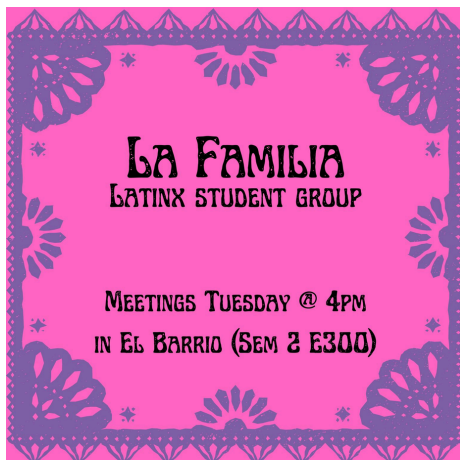
Founded on the principles of unity and cultural pride, La Familia seeks to create a welcoming space for all students of color. The term La Familia itself translates to "The Family," embodying the group's mission to build a strong, supportive network of students who can rely on one another in their academic, personal, and professional journeys.

As the only currently operating affinity club, our weekly meetings are open to students of color for solidarity and community building. While the primary focus is on Latinx students, La Familia emphasizes inclusivity, offering opportunities for everyone to engage with the rich traditions, art, food, history, and issues facing the Latinx community. Cultural Events and Celebrations

One of the key ways that La Familia strengthens its community is through organizing and participating in cultural events throughout the year. These events are an opportunity to celebrate Latinx heritage, showcase student talent, and educate the wider Evergreen community about Latinx culture. From traditional Latin American dance performances to cooking classes and themed nights such as Día de los Muertos or José Gómez Farmworker Justice Day, the club hosts a wide array

of activities that invite everyone to participate and learn. These events also offer students a chance to engage in important conversations about identity, race, and representation, bridging gaps between cultures and promoting understanding.

Find us at: @tescfamilia on instagram, tesclafamilia@gmail.com or in El Barrio (Sem II E300) every Tuesday at 4pm.

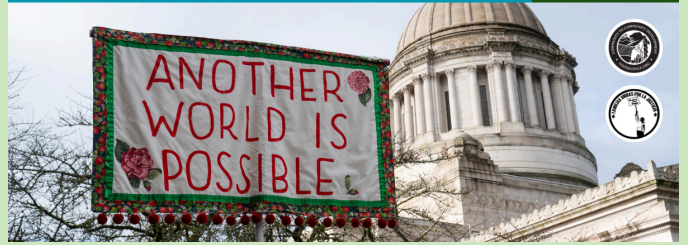


FARM WORKER TRIBUNAL

FARMWORKERS TRIBUNAL

**JANUARY
21
2025**

CAMPEÑOS SIEMBRAN EL FUTURO! / FARMWORKERS SEED THE FUTURE!



What is a Tribunal? the Food Chain Workers Alliance Explains:

"People's Tribunals People's tribunal are forums of justice set up by social justice movements, communities and organizations that bring attention to the truths that our judicial and political forums either cannot engage with or choose not to. There is a long history of people's tribunals used by movements across the world to expose systems of oppression while building accountability. Although People's Tribunals have no legal authority beyond the integrity and respect generated from the process and participants, they are set up to shed light and amplify human rights violations and a vision for addressing those violations."

Learn more about Tribunal processes and outcomes by reading about the Bi-National People's Tribunal on the Struggles of Farmworkers in North America. Without food, we cannot survive. It is critical to engage farmworkers in co-creating policy for a just and resilient food system if we hope to adapt to the climate crisis. Since 2013, we have worked with Familias Unidas por la Justicia to host a day of action for Farmworkers across the state to share their testimonies about their working conditions. We celebrate the victories that have been achieved in more than a decade of bringing Farmworker policy priorities to the state capitol.

<http://www.foodjustice.org/farmworkers-tribunal>



SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 2025

11-1PM PANEL LIBRARY LOBBY

1-3PM PRESENTATION L4300

OLYMPIA CAMPUS - EVERGREEN

JOSÉ GÓMEZ

FARMWORKER JUSTICE DAY

WELCOMING C2C AND FAMILIAS UNIDAS POR LA JUSTICIA



WINTER 2025 SOS CLASS ON COMMUNITY MUTUAL AID AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

By Zoltán Grossman

In winter quarter 2025, faculty member Zoltán Grossman (Geography / Native Studies) started co-teaching a new Student-Originated Studies (SOS) class on "Community Mutual Aid and Disaster Resilience," with CCBLA director Ellen Shortt-Sanchez. The class draws from past Evergreen programs on "Catastrophe: Community Resilience in the Face of Disaster."

Just as the winter 2020 "Catastrophe" class coincided with the early stages of the pandemic, the winter 2025 SOS class coincided with the L.A. Fires and needs for greater social solidarity during the new administration. Students are reading works on disaster capitalism and disaster collectivism by Dean Spade, Naomi Klein, and Rebecca Solnit, and articles on "The Resilience Doctrine: Disaster Cooperativeness in the Climate and Pandemic Crises" (Zoltán Grossman) and "Neighbors as Lifelines: The Power of Mutual Aid in Asheville" (Kelly Hayes).

SOS students are doing internships and community-based volunteer or research projects, in collaboration with CCBLA. Examples include disaster planning and emergency response, grassroots mutual aid groups, Indigenous nations and communities, houseless communities, community health providers, tribal or other community gardens and farms, communities dealing with the effects of climate change, aid to war-ravaged communities, or other internship or volunteer opportunities.

Some of the specific organizations that students are working with include the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team, Thurston County Food Bank, Rachel Corrie Foundation, Salish Roots Farm, Evergreen Emergency Management, Wild Grief, and Mason County Climate Justice. As part of the internships or independently, students are conducting innovative research on issues such as homelessness and aging, global water justice, campus plans for power outages, using shipping containers as tiny homes, and barriers to veterans' benefits and education. Most SOS students went through Evergreen's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training on February 12-14.

Join student presenters at our Symposium on Wednesday, March 12 in Sem II A1105. Contact Zoltán Grossman at grossmaz@evergreen.edu for the schedule.

Thanks to all the first responders protecting our communities, and those seeking to understand the origins of disasters in order to prevent their worst effects. Our hearts go out to the people of L.A. and all those affected by war, social inequalities, and the climate crisis, at home and abroad.

(Faculty emeritus Jeanne Hahn shows V Guardado a special donation to CCBLA. The photo was taken at the very first meeting between Cesar Chavez and Robert F. Kennedy (either when he was a U.S. senator on the Labor Subcommittee, or several years later when he was the U.S. Attorney General). The photo was taken in the home of a lawyer who, worked in the US Dept. of Justice. Jeanne shared that only a few (about six copies) of the photo were printed. Each copy was signed by Chavez. Look for the framed photo at our Center soon. Thanks, Jeanne.



Remembering Community Activist Sayad "Sy" Khan

A fierce activist and joyous community leader, Sy Khan passed away on Friday, January 10, following a stroke. Sy contributed to the work of the Rachel Corrie Foundation, Palestine Action of South Sound, Interfaith Works, and the Islamic community. He also curated and brought to life the Saturday KAOS show "Jungle Hour," which featured Bollywood music. He leaves a legacy of deep commitment to just and liberatory causes. Rest in peace and power, Sy.



VISIT OUR CCBLA WEBPAGE!

Newsletter designed by Rachel Espinoza Ortiz, AmeriCorps Service Member

