

*Great learning  
happens here*

Your  
**2024-2025**  
Impact Report



the  
evergreen  
state college  
foundation

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# From the Executive Director *Abby Kelso*

**Dear Evergreen believers,**

I am honored to share this annual report with you. I am excited to show how your investments transform our unique learning environment and how you bolster Evergreen, even in the wake of state budget cuts and widespread uncertainty.

As our federal government looks to scale down the Department of Education and trim national programs supporting higher education, and as Washington State faces one of the largest budget shortfalls in decades, Evergreen is finding ways to persist with redoubled dedication to our mission.

Indeed, times like this underscore the value of Evergreen's public education and the vital role our students play in advancing the public good. In these pages, you will read how undergraduate student Meah Francisco '26

is building a career in restorative biology. You will hear from Modou Nyang, a member of our Master in Public Administration cohort '25, about his work to improve social justice systems and serve people facing houselessness. You will also see how Evergreen alumni, like Tyler Balliet '03 and Linda Andrews '90, continue to use their Evergreen education to innovate, push boundaries, and combine art and science to transform their communities.

Stories like these matter like never before. More Greeners are getting recognized for their efforts to change the world, both locally and globally. Their passion, combined with your dedication, is fueling Evergreen's growth. Like you, Evergreen supporters from across the country are advocating for us, investing in scholarships to retain and attract

students, and supporting partnerships—such as the Shelton Promise—to bring even more people to campus.

Thank you for making all this possible.

If you are looking for more ways to get involved, be sure to read about the Evergreen Advocates on page 11 and check our calendar of upcoming events on page 16.

Let's continue to be champions for Evergreen together. I hope to see you soon.

With gratitude,

Abby



**Abby Kelso '01, MPA '11**  
Vice President for Advancement  
Executive Director, The Evergreen  
State College Foundation





# Your *impact* in 2024-2025

**\$4,850,336**

total gifts and grant payments received to The Foundation

**375 students**

received scholarships

**\$1,380,187**

offered in scholarship awards

**215 students**

provided with aid through the Student Emergency Fund

**\$156,332**

awarded in Student Emergency Fund micro-grants

**\$4,260,913**

total of all support from The Foundation to The College

# Enrollment rises again!

For the fourth consecutive year, Evergreen has increased student enrollment: up 6.4% since 2024 and 26.8% since 2021.



"As a caring Greener, your gifts expand access, strengthen support systems, and enhance programs that attract new and returning learners to our campus."

**Tonya Strong**  
Associate Vice President for Enrollment,  
Marketing & Communications

# Shelton Promise: from 3 to **53** new Evergreen students



Students from Shelton Promise visit campus.

***This year, The Evergreen State College recognized 53 students and their families who make up the first cohort of Evergreen's Shelton Promise Program.***

Only about 30% of students in the Shelton School District go on to higher education right after high school. In the year prior to the launch of the Shelton Promise, only three Shelton High School students enrolled at Evergreen.

With support from the Washington State Legislature, Evergreen launched the Shelton Promise pilot program to remove barriers for Shelton students to attend and succeed in college. Through the program, students in the Shelton School District—less than 30 miles from Olympia—are eligible to attend Evergreen and receive 100% paid tuition and fees for four years, as well as offsets for cost-of-living expenses.

In October, The Foundation co-hosted a gathering with Evergreen for Shelton Promise students, their families, educators,

alumni, and friends to celebrate the program's growth. Shelton Promise Manager, Monear Fatemi '07, MiT '11, explained how she started her career in Shelton as a student teacher and sees the Shelton Promise as a continuation of the longstanding partnership between Shelton and The College. "At its heart," she said, "it's about outreach, connection, and community—not just recruitment."

Alauna Carstens '27 was also at the event. A graduate of Shelton High School, she is studying health education at Evergreen and is a tutor with the Shelton Promise program. She explained that "Evergreen was part of some of my most important moments, and my most impactful mentors and teachers were Evergreen graduates. Evergreen has been the thread running through my story."

With continued investment and a growing network, The Foundation is proud to support the Shelton Promise so that students in our local community continue to build lasting educational pathways.

# Mountain discoveries fueled by Foundation fellowships

On May 18, 1980, at 8:32 a.m. Pacific Time, Mount St. Helens erupted, ejecting 540 million tons of ash, destroying approximately 230 square miles of forest, and completely sterilizing the landscape directly in the path of the devastation.

Today, Evergreen faculty and ecosystem ecologist Dr. Dylan Fischer is bringing Evergreen students to the slopes of Mount St. Helens to contribute to over 45 years of continuous research and data collection focused on the mountain's recovery.

During this past summer, Madelyn DelaCruz '26 and Gates Marshall '26 were able to join Dr. Fischer in his research, thanks to donors like you. Both Gates and Madelyn received the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF), funding that gives students the chance to get into the field alongside faculty to take part in impactful career-expanding research.

Madelyn looked at vegetation regrowth on the Mount St. Helens pumice plains, a six-mile-wide ecological "blank slate"

completely wiped clean of life during the eruption. Her research will advance the understanding of how plants regenerate in catastrophic disturbance zones.

In the old-growth forests outside the blast zone, Gates investigated the impact of continuous debris burial on plant communities. Gates' findings reveal that these plant communities are surprisingly resilient to burial, thanks largely to clonal reproduction strategies, and may have pre-adapted to recover from catastrophic events like volcanic ash fall.

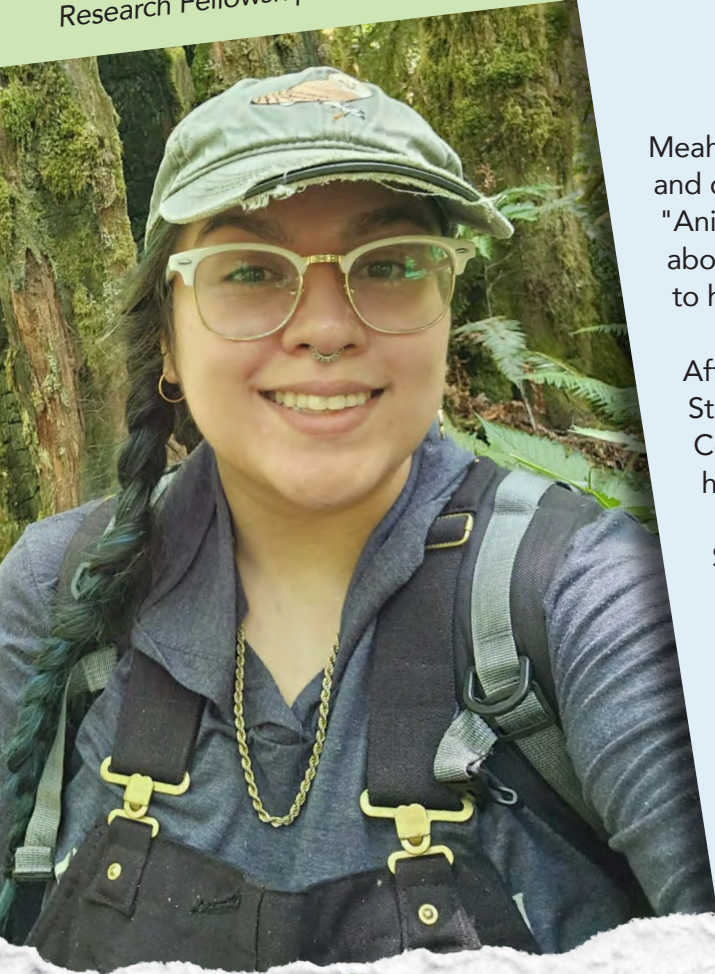
Madelyn and Gates' research is now part of one of the longest-running and most comprehensive volcanic monitoring studies in history. The lessons learned from this long-running research are shaping our comprehension of environmental regeneration on Mount St. Helens and helping to inform worldwide understanding of ecosystem recovery. Both Gates and Madelyn are continuing on to funded graduate research positions upon graduation.



*Madelyn DelaCruz '26 and Gates Marshall '26 collecting data at Mount St. Helens.*

**About SURF** The Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) enable students to spend their summer collecting and processing data to advance questions in the social and hard sciences. Fellows have a chance to share their findings during a poster presentation, and many have been able to use their experience to co-author publications and advance their education and career goals.

Meah is a Dan and Sheryl Tishman scholar and Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship recipient.



# Getting outside

## with Meah Francisco '26

Meah grew up with a passion for nature and diversity. As a young child, she watched "Animal Planet" and excitedly recited facts about the incredible diversity of animals to her family.

After turning 16, she enrolled in Running Start classes at South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC) and earned her associate's degree.

Soon after, she became involved with conservation and stewardship at Washington Fish and Wildlife and found employment with the Washington State Parks Department. Wanting to go even further in her career as a wildlife and

restoration biologist for local environmental agencies, she enrolled at Evergreen.

"I dedicated my studies to becoming a better steward of the land," she says. In response to peer discussions concerning the nutritional content of industrialized agriculture, she started a vegetable plot in the Evergreen Community Garden to grow organic food. In Fall 2024, during classes in biology and oceanography, she participated in water sample collections in the Puget Sound to learn more about estuary science and conservation.

In the summer of 2025, thanks to donor funding through the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program, she took part in

avian research methods with Evergreen faculty Alison Styring and collected data about bird survivorship and biodiversity on Evergreen's campus. Meah credits the mentorship of Evergreen alumni in Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Division for steering her toward Dr. Styring. Working with birds is Meah's ultimate dream.

For Meah, scholarships have helped ease the burden of debt that comes with paying for college each quarter. Today, she continues to excel through Evergreen's experiential learning approach. Meah says, "I give each Evergreen program my maximum effort."



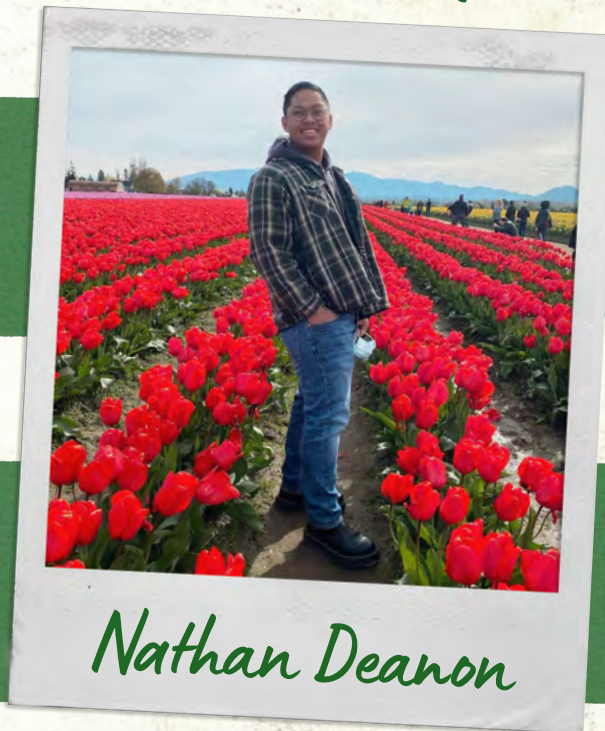
# What do *scholarships* mean for you?



*TJ Tenari*

"I picked Evergreen because the interdisciplinary approach allows me to perfectly blend my creative pursuits with my professional goals as an independent artist. Scholarships have been crucial for me, providing the financial support needed to focus heavily on my coursework and music production without the added stress of covering all expenses."

**TJ Tenari '27**



*Nathan Deanon*

"I chose Evergreen because of its strong sense of community and welcoming environment. After Evergreen, I hope to work in the public sector, using my computer science expertise to help people across Washington state. My goal is to contribute to technological advancements that support and improve communities throughout the state."

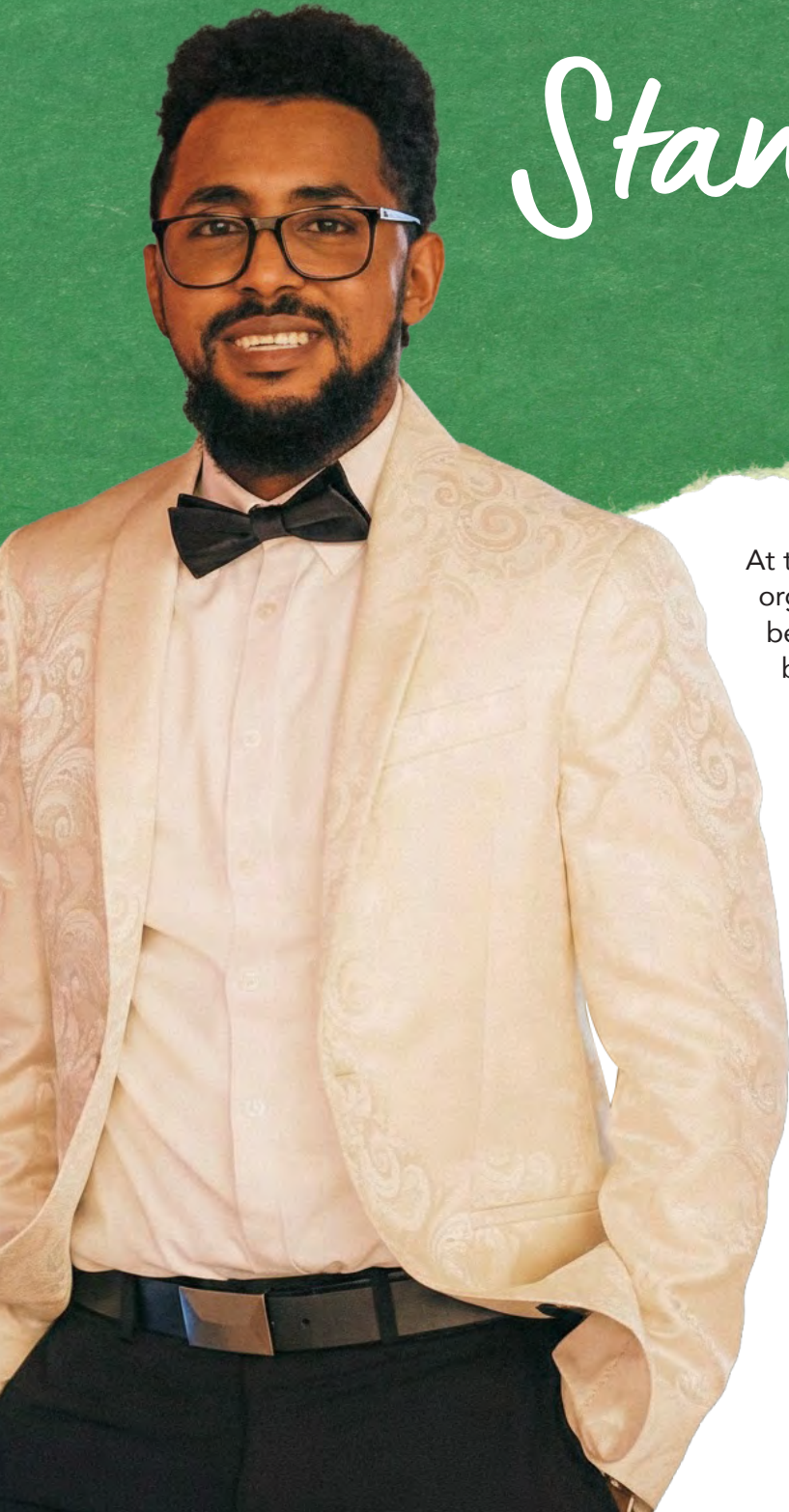
**Nathan Deanon '25**



*Laika Taddei*

"I was able to study what I was passionate about while receiving a comprehensive and well-rounded education. I am most proud of helping found the Olympia Animation Society and of connecting animators at Evergreen and in the greater South Puget Sound area."

**Laika Taddei '25**



# Standing up for others

## with Modou Nyang, MPA '25

At the age of 12, Modou founded social organizations to fight for the causes he believed in. In 2013, he was invited to be part of the Youth Takeover at the United Nations in New York, where he was able to bring his advocacy to an international stage.

Soon after, Modou settled in Seattle and, over the years, focused his attention on King County's entrenched challenges around homeless and houseless populations. "I recognized the dire human rights issues of homelessness," says Modou. "I worked to establish a 24-hour youth center in Rainier Beach, among other initiatives."

While working at King County Regional Homelessness Authority as a Regional Community Capacity Specialist, Modou quickly noticed the inequalities in resources available through public systems. He realized organizations of different sizes, including smaller, newer, and BIPOC organizations, were often in competition for the same sources of funding. These experiences ignited Modou's desire to start Dikon Public Policy Group, a consultancy rooted in helping bridge gaps between policy, operational systems, funding, and deliverables.

In 2023, Modou enrolled at Evergreen Tacoma to pursue a Master of Public Administration with an emphasis on public policy. His goal was to effect

systemic change as a policy researcher and analyst. What he found at Evergreen was a collaborative ethos and a chance to continue amplifying underrepresented voices.

Today, using skills and strategies he learned at Evergreen, Modou helps organizations turn policy into performant systems and sustain equitable outcomes. As Modou explains, "My mission remains unwavering—to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable."

Modou aspires to attain his Ph.D. in public policy, driven by a commitment to research methodologies rooted in equity. "I am ready to contribute to positive change," he excitedly explains, "Together, let's forge a future where opportunity knows no bounds!"

*Through The Foundation, you support graduate students, like Modou, to thrive at the Olympia and Tacoma campuses thanks to scholarships, emergency aid, and general operating funds for special events and program initiatives.*

# evergreen advocates

## Alumni volunteers support major victory

Colleges and universities across the country are facing unprecedented challenges. Federal and state support for higher education continues to shrink, and liberal arts colleges in particular are feeling the impact. Evergreen is no exception—we're navigating significant shifts in state funding and changing policy priorities.

In response, **alumni and friends have come together as Evergreen Advocates**, a volunteer-driven coalition guided by The Evergreen State College Foundation's Legislative Committee. Since launching in October 2024, **nearly 300** advocates have joined the effort, successfully amplifying Evergreen's voice in the legislature and ensuring higher education remains a priority

in Washington state. Their commitment has already made a tangible difference.

The 2026 legislative session began with Evergreen facing a significant \$2.7 million cut carried over from the previous session. Evergreen Advocates met this challenge head-on. Foundation leaders mobilized volunteers across legislative districts who met personally with their representatives and activated broad outreach through coordinated emails and phone calls.

In January 2026, The Foundation organized a day at the legislature during which advocates met directly with lawmakers to share the impact of their Evergreen experience and highlight the importance of accessible public

liberal arts education. The day concluded with a reception for legislators and volunteers, featuring remarks from President John Carmichael and Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck '75, both underscoring the critical role of alumni advocacy.

The result? The \$2.7 million cut was fully removed—an outcome attributed in large part to the sustained, strategic, and authentic engagement of Evergreen Advocates. The Governor's staff cited Evergreen's "powerful advocacy" as key to making the case for restoring the funds.

"Never underestimate the power of Evergreen students," says Nina Carter '81, MPA '85, Chair of The Foundation's

Legislative Committee, "When we put our minds together to solve a problem—whether it is in business, politics, local, regional, or international—we get our work done. Evergreen Advocates is just one example of our determination and drive to help our alma mater."

This victory demonstrates what is possible when alumni and friends speak up for the college they love. We deeply appreciate the time, energy, and commitment of the Evergreen Advocates, whose efforts elevated the needs and priorities of our Greener community in state-level conversations throughout the legislative session.

**Learn more at [evergreenadvocates.org](https://evergreenadvocates.org)**





# Going green with Linda Andrews '90

**Some have called Linda a 'magician.'** As owner of Linda Andrews Landscape and Design, people in and around Olympia have benefited from her ability to combine science, art, and a deep passion for sustainability to dramatically transform their outdoor spaces.

Linda credits Evergreen for helping her think across disciplines, including deepening her passion for nature in the context of human communities.

She came to Evergreen for its interdisciplinary approach to education, small class sizes, and exceptional access to professors. She had a "lightbulb moment" when learning to key plants for the first time at Leadbetter Point as part of a political ecology course. She loved understanding spaces by also understanding flora. While at Evergreen, she cultivated her perspective by combining studies in environmental science, Central America, literature, history, and more. Learning contracts with faculty, like founding member of the faculty Dr. Tom Rainey, helped her develop confidence.

When Linda fell deeply in love with landscape design, her experiences at Evergreen enabled her to reinvent herself, build her business, and give back to the community.

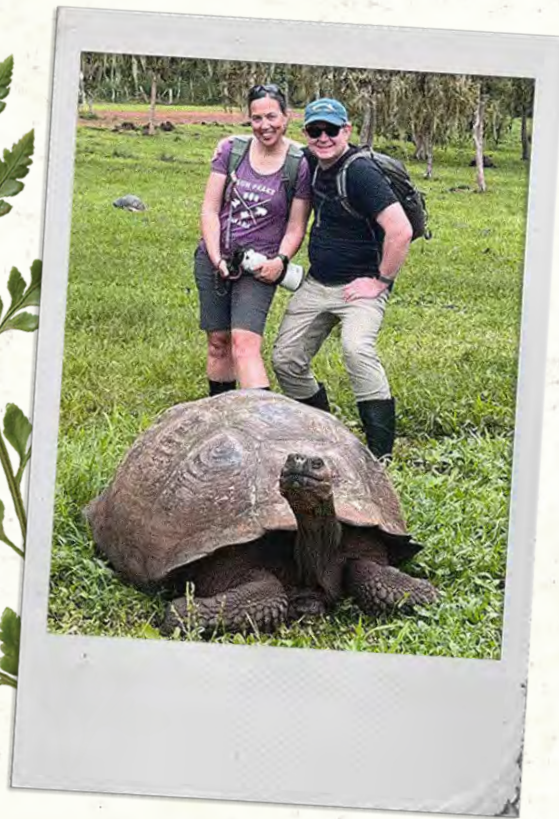
Today, Linda's donations to Evergreen continue to uphold her values. Linda's support for the

Evergreen Scholarship Fund has helped students bridge their passions across the arts and sciences, like she did.

She and her sisters have also donated to the Sustainability in Prisons Project to bring nature and environmental conservation into Washington state prisons. Their giving enables incarcerated students to raise and release the endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. "Designing pollinator-supporting gardens led me to a fascination with critically threatened Puget Sound Basin prairie ecosystems," says Linda, "I visited the women in the Taylor's checkerspot program and witnessed their pride and utmost care in conducting scientific work, with deeply nurturing attitudes toward the butterflies at all stages. The Sustainability in Prisons Project represents the kind of outside-of-the-box problem solving Evergreen is so good at. The women help the butterflies flourish and then flourish themselves."

As a dedicated alum, Linda knows she is making a difference. "The arenas for change can be as small as a backyard garden or much, much larger," she says. "We take goodwill into the world, synthesize ideas, think broadly, reinvent ourselves, and solve problems. I hope my support of the Evergreen Scholarship Fund helps reduce barriers so we can all benefit from the synergistic, forward-thinking ideals of today's students."

# A truly "Evergreen" *love story*



**Brian Trinen '90 and Nancy Gleason '92 met on a bus chartered by Evergreen's boomerang team to attend a competition in the spring of 1990.** They became great friends after college while living in Port Townsend, WA. Their romance took off when they reunited a couple of years later, and they married in 1998.

"Evergreen has been the single most influential component in getting me to where

I enjoy being today," said Nancy Gleason. "I am inspired to help anybody who feels like Evergreen is the right fit for them to get that education and experience."

Nancy returned to Evergreen for her Master of Environmental Studies degree and graduated in 2004. "I think what has made me able to outcompete for career advancement are the critical-thinking skills and broad perspectives on problem-solving that I learned at Evergreen," said Nancy. She now works as a fish biologist on salmon recovery and ecosystem restoration in the Pacific Northwest.

Brian, who retired after nearly 25 years working in marketing and data analytics, credits Evergreen with helping him become a dedicated lifelong learner. "A lot of what I ended up doing in my career was outside of what I studied at Evergreen; it was things I learned later on my own," he told us, "but I knew how to do that thanks to Evergreen, where I learned how to learn."

The two have been regular contributors to The Evergreen State College. So, when they decided to make a will, it was an easy decision to include a gift to the College in their estate plan.

Brian wanted to give future generations the gift of a more affordable education, which is what attracted him to Evergreen. "We need more people to be able to afford college and not graduate with debt that just swamps them for the rest of their lives," he said.

A big reason Nancy is a "huge cheering fan of The Evergreen State College" is the alternative it offers to more conventional learning environments. "When I learned about Evergreen's teaching style as a student, I felt like it was probably the only college in the world that would fit me," Nancy shared. "It feels good to know I am doing something for future Greeners. I like the overall idea of our plan to help as

many students as possible and trust that whatever they want to do if they're doing it at Evergreen, it's going to be good."

Together, Nancy and Brian have created a legacy at Evergreen that will continue to open doors for Greeners far into the future.

*Help future generations*  
**experience the Evergreen difference!**

You can join Nancy and Brian in supporting experiential, interdisciplinary learning that prepares students to thrive no matter where their lives take them.

Contact the Major and Planned Giving Team at **(360) 867-6300** or **foundation@evergreen.edu** to discuss the best legacy gift options for your unique situation.



# Tyler Balliet '03

## makes waves in wine

**Tyler Balliet '03 is a bestselling author and entrepreneur who has been reshaping the wine industry since 2006.** Her debut book, "Rebel School of Wine," says the quiet parts about the wine industry out loud and was nominated for a 2025 James Beard Foundation Book Award. The award ceremony was held in Chicago on June 14, 2025, and while Tyler didn't win, her book was one of only three in the category and the only wine book nominated in any category.

Rebel School of Wine challenges outdated traditions, exposes industry blind spots, and gives readers the context they need to

understand and enjoy wine with confidence. The guide covers every major region, grape, and style, along with how wine is made, how to buy it, drink it, and pair it with food. With over 450 custom illustrations, Tyler Balliet brings wine to life through history, politics, economics, and culture. Championed by industry professionals, it offers a fresh voice that answers real questions with wit, clarity, and depth. This book isn't about memorizing facts. It's about understanding how wine fits into your world.

In addition to their work as an author, Tyler founded Rosé Mansion and Wine Riot, two successful wine experiences that drew over

500,000 guests and helped change the way a new generation experiences wine. As a journalist, she visits wine regions around the world and judges wine competitions. She has been featured in the New York Times, Boston Globe, and Los Angeles Times, and regularly appears on television including CNN, ABC News, and Good Morning America. A former Inc. Magazine 30 Under 30 and Wine Enthusiast 40 Under 40 honoree, Tyler continues to push the boundaries of wine culture, blending design, storytelling, and history to make wine more accessible, inclusive, and fun for everyone. Tyler resides in the Chinatown neighborhood of New York City with her partner.

# 48,000 Evergreen alumni and counting!

"I'm an original Greener.  
The Evergreen State College  
changed my life and I am  
ever grateful for it."  
**Anne Avery '72, MPA '82**



This year, hundreds of Greeners from coast to coast came together to celebrate their love of learning and fond memories of Evergreen. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Evergreen events. We hope to see even more alumni in the coming year!



Greener Meets in Tacoma!

Greener Meets in the Bay Area!



Greener Meets in NYC!



# Foundation and alumni 2026

# Events calendar



the  
evergreen  
state college

Evergreen  
Alumni Network

Fueled by passion, dedication, and care, Greeners make a positive difference in their communities and at Evergreen. Through the Alumni Network, alumni and friends can strengthen your connections, deepen your engagement, expand your learning, and share your talents.



Stay connected and  
informed with the  
*Greener News*

Update your contact information and sign up for the alumni newsletter, Greener News. You'll receive notices of upcoming events, news, and activities for alumni and friends of Evergreen.

[evergreen.edu/alumni](https://evergreen.edu/alumni)

## ART OF GIVING - Benefiting the Evergreen Scholarship Fund

May 8, 2026 • Seattle, WA

**Hosted at the Seattle Art Museum!** Immerse yourself in a gallery where art and impact collide—where portraits awaken through voices that inspire and stories that move you. Don't miss this celebration of community giving, student achievement, and an Evergreen education!

Learn more and register at [evergreen.edu/artofgiving](https://evergreen.edu/artofgiving)

## GREENER MEETS

June 25, 2026 • Olympia, WA

Meet alumni in your area, grow your professional and social networks, show off your Greener Pride, and learn how Evergreen is continuing to be a leader in liberal arts education. **Learn more and register at [evergreen.edu/alumni/events](https://evergreen.edu/alumni/events)**

## RETURN TO EVERGREEN

August 29, 2026 • Olympia, WA

**We're calling alumni back this summer!** Connect with old and new friends, choose your own adventure through immersive experiences—some reimagined, some brand new—and enjoy the wonders of campus. **All alumni—every class, every path—are invited.**

Save the date!



# 10-Year Trends

The Foundation provides this 10-year financial snapshot to help you visualize the long-term health of your investments.

## Looking for more?

You can always find our audited financial statements, as well as past annual reports, online at:

[evergreen.edu/foundation/foundation-annual-reports](http://evergreen.edu/foundation/foundation-annual-reports)

## Questions?

[foundation@evergreen.edu](mailto:foundation@evergreen.edu) • (360) 867-6300

## 10-Year Trends FY16-FY25

### Assets

	June 30, 2016	10 years	June 30, 2025	Low	High	Notes
Net assets (\$ millions) <sup>1</sup>	15.7		31.4	15.7	31.4	The Foundation's net assets doubled in 10 years.
Endowment (\$ millions) <sup>2</sup>	12.1		23.6	12.1	23.6	The Foundation's endowments almost doubled in 10 years.

### Revenue and Returns

	June 30, 2016	10 years	June 30, 2025	Low	High	AVG	Notes
Gifts & contributions (\$ millions) <sup>3</sup>	2.7		3.5	2.0	6.0	3.4	Includes new gifts received and binding pledges committed.
Investment returns (\$ millions) <sup>4</sup>	-0.2		2.4	-1.1	5.1	1.2	The majority of investment returns are associated with endowments.
UW Consolidated Endowment Fund (UWCEF) return (%)	-1.6		12.4	-5.5	35.1	8.3	The Foundation's endowments are invested with the UWCEF.

### Foundation Impact on the College

	June 30, 2016	10 years	June 30, 2025	Low	High	Notes
Grants, scholarships and college support (\$ millions) <sup>5</sup>	1.3		4.3	1.3	5.1	Includes all scholarships, grants and spending to support college programs.
Scholarship recipients	221		375	221	376	The number of scholarship recipients increased by 70%.
Student emergency fund recipients <sup>6</sup>	10		215	10	346	This fund gives \$500 microgrants to students facing financial emergencies.

<sup>1</sup> Statement of Financial Position: Total net assets

<sup>2</sup> Notes to the Financial Statements: Note 4, 2025 Endowment net assets, end of year

<sup>3</sup> Statement of Activities: Gifts and contributions plus other in-kind support

<sup>4</sup> Statement of Activities: Investment income

<sup>5</sup> Statement of Activities: Grants and scholarships plus other college support

<sup>6</sup> In 2021-22 federal funds were used for 155 students in addition to the 24 from The Foundation



the  
evergreen  
state college  
foundation

### The Evergreen State College Foundation

The Foundation secures philanthropic funds to support students to achieve a transformative education, strengthen Evergreen's public service, and build a community of graduates who exemplify critical thinking, creativity, empathy, and social responsibility. When you give through the Foundation, you strengthen our shared Greener community.

### Your gifts to the Evergreen Fund support:

- Evergreen Scholarship Fund
- Evergreen Tacoma Fund
- Native Pathways Program
- Prison Education Fund
- Returning Greeners Fund
- Student Emergency Fund
- Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF)
- Travel Abroad Fund
- *And so much more!*



Advancement and The Evergreen State College Foundation

2700 Evergreen Parkway NW Evans Hall 3900 Olympia, WA 98505 • Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. PT • [foundation@evergreen.edu](mailto:foundation@evergreen.edu) • (360) 867-6300 • [evergreen.edu/give](https://evergreen.edu/give)