

ROLE AND MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

“Making Learning Happen”

The Evergreen State College is a public, liberal arts college serving Washington state. Its mission is to help students realize their potential through innovative, interdisciplinary educational programs in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. In addition to preparing students within their academic fields, Evergreen provides graduates with the fundamental skills to communicate, to solve problems, and to work collaboratively and independently in addressing real issues and problems. This mission is based on a set of principles that underlie the development of all college programs and services.

Principles that guide Evergreen's educational programs:

- * Teaching is the central work of the faculty at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Supporting student learning engages everyone at Evergreen -- faculty and staff.
- * Academic offerings are interdisciplinary and collaborative, a structure that accurately reflects how people learn and work in their occupations and personal lives.
- * Students are taught to be aware of what they know, how they learn, and how to apply what they know; this allows them to be responsible for their own education, both at college and throughout their lives.
- * College offerings require active participation in learning, rather than passive reception of information, and integrate theory with practical applications.
- * Evergreen supports community-based learning, with research and applications focused on issues and problems found within students' communities. This principle, as well as the desire to serve diverse placebound populations, guides Evergreen's community-based programs at Tacoma and Tribal Reservations.
- * Because learning is enhanced when topics are examined from the perspectives of diverse groups and because such differences reflect the world around us, the college strives to create a rich mix in the composition of its student body, staff, and faculty, and to give serious consideration to issues of social class, age, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.
- * Faculty and staff continually review, assess and modify programs and services to fit changing needs of students and society.

As evidenced by these principles, an important part of Evergreen's educational mission is engagement with the community, the state, and the nation. One focus of this engagement is through the work of public service centers that both disseminate the best work of the college and bring back to the college the best ideas of the wider community.

By _____ (Chair)
Dwight K. Imanaka

Attest: _____ (Secretary)
Carol Vipperman

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Since its founding, The Evergreen State College has affirmed its belief that learning takes place best when theories and conclusions are challenged and tested by vigorous debate among different points of view. This belief underlies the organization of our curriculum into interdisciplinary programs, in which contemporary problems are studied from the perspectives of multiple academic disciplines. This belief shines through our role and mission statements. It is fundamental to our commitment to diversity, and is given concrete expression in the important policies that guide recruitment, admissions, and hiring practices at Evergreen.

We believe that teaching across and about differences is vital to both teaching and learning. It broadens the knowledge and sharpens the critical thinking of students and teachers alike. It makes all of us students of our ever-changing world. Understanding and embracing differences is essential to successful participation in the pluralistic world we all inhabit.

The Board of Trustees of The Evergreen State College has a long history of supporting access to public higher education for all students, regardless of socioeconomic standing, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability, ethnicity, or race. We believe that we have a continuing obligation to provide opportunity to persons and communities that have historically not been well served by public higher education.

This statement reaffirms our commitment to provide access to a high-quality public education that is rich in its mix of people from diverse backgrounds, and that promotes equal opportunities for all who choose Evergreen as their educational institution or as their employer.

Adopted: February 11, 1998

By: /s/ Carol Vipperman
Chair

Attest: /s/ David E. Lamb
Secretary