

Center for Community-Based Learning and Action

EVERGREEN

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Seminar II E 2125, Olympia Campus
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ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

“A Place for the Community to Engage”

~Jacinta McKoy, Center Visionary

Our Mission:

We address social issues while strengthening and enhancing student experience by supporting our community's ability to meet critical needs.

“Community Based Learning enables students to apply their knowledge in concrete situations, to solve problems in partnership with the community...and gives faculty and staff the opportunity to build long-term community relationships which continually inform and strengthen the curriculum...and places the college as a progressive force deeply involved in community work.”

Message from Don Bantz, Academic Vice President and Provost

Since the Center opened in 2004, it has institutionalized one of Evergreen's core values i.e., service-learning. The Center orchestrates multiple pathways for students and faculty to engage the greater community and, in doing so, provides opportunities for students to apply theory-to-practice and to integrate meaningful service-learning into the curriculum. The Center is a whirlwind of activity—they procure grants to place work-study students at local community organizations, coordinate community-based learning opportunities within academic programs, and enable our students, faculty, and staff to make a difference in the communities we serve.

Congratulations on the Center's successful 5th year!

CCBLA and Gateways Staff

Director: Ellen Shortt Sanchez
Learn and Serve/High Demand Coordinator: Jacob Berkey
VISTA Community Partnership Catalyst: Hilary Hacker
CYS AmeriCorps Tutor Coordinator: Adriana Puskiewicz
Community Action Work-Study Coordinator: Finn Cottom
Special Projects Coordinator: Emily Pieper
SIS Coordinators: Alex Dreyer, Heidi Stygar (SESEP)
Gateways Program Manager: Jose S. Gutierrez Jr.
Retention Project Gateways Challenge Program: Samantha Franks
Annual Report / MPA Capstone Project: *Rebecca Manger*

Director's Report

Ellen Shortt Sanchez

‘Higher education has a responsibility to contribute our resources to our community because we understand and value community. Higher education represents a large part of the communities we serve. We are institutions in a bigger context and our communities have crucial needs. We have resources (facilities, students, faculty and research). Teaching is more than just career preparation. It mutually benefits students and community. Community-based service learning helps shape the future, and instills lifelong civic responsibility.’

~May 15, 2009 South West Washington Community-Based Service Learning Roundtable- Dialogue for Democracy

Regional discussions this year have built on CCBLA's commitment to community-based learning as a response to vital community needs. This model of teaching and learning joins theory to practice and provides students with real life learning experiences. College students learn to contribute and community organizations work with faculty to guide learning that is applied, interdisciplinary and important.

CCBLA's work has grown throughout 2008-9 through support from Washington Campus Compact, Learn and Serve and Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) grants. Student engagement in the community increased through off-campus work study, Students in Service tuition awards, k-12 tutoring opportunities, peer learning with incarcerated youth and faculty-community partner fellowship work.

With the economic downturn this year, community requests for student involvement have increased. Organizations fighting poverty, homelessness, hunger and environmental devastation call on their neighbors in higher education to make a difference.

Director, Ellen Shortt Sanchez with faculty member Russ Fox at the recognition event in May 2009



70 PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS!

Community Partners 08-09

- All Together Farming
- Avanti High School
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Birth Attendants
- Books to Prisoners
- Bread and Roses
- Bridges Not Walls
- C.I.E.L.O. Project
- Camp Quixote/PANZA Board
- Capital High School
- CARE
- CHUMA International
- Community Action Council
- Community to Community Development
- Community Youth Services
- Coroner's Office
- Dale Turner YMCA
- De Colores Bookstore
- DSHS
- Evergreen Elementary
- Evergreen Villages
- Evergreen VISTA
- Fertile Ground Guest House
- First People's Advising
- Garfield Elementary School
- Gear Up
- GI Voice Coffee Strong
- GRuB
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hands on Children Museum
- Hansen Elementary School
- Harmony Hill
- Helsing Junction Farm
- Human Response Network
- Kiwanis Food Bank Garden
- Left Foot Organics
- Lewis County Growing Places Farm and Energy Park

Partners continued on page 3...

Our relationship with CCBLA advantages over 400 students every day at Garfield Elementary. Our Evergreen students are math tutors, small group reading leaders, classroom assistants, and adult role models and friends. Their presence in our building enhances the school experience for kids."

~Bob Hodges, Principal, Garfield Elementary, OSD

Program Highlights
Student-Community Engagement

Action Days

This year over 420 students partnered with 23 community organizations for a combined total of over 3088 action day volunteer hours!

Action Days are organized once or twice a month as a way for students to make connections with the community and to learn about current problems that community members face while meeting the short term needs of our community partners.

Students in Service

Each volunteer hour that a student contributes to the community is valued at \$20.25. Our active members have donated 10,589 hours to the community, for a total monetary value of \$214,427.25 this grant year alone. This service work is happening with 50 community partners.

The Students in Service (SIS) Part Time AmeriCorps Program continues to grow at Evergreen. We enrolled 53 new members this year and currently have 60 members active in the community. Next year we have allocated 70 slots and if our enrollments are strong we hope to have more than 80 new students participating within the year. Any registered student is eligible for SIS and the award is based on hours of community work performed in five focus areas: human service, environment, education, public safety, and community development.

SIS has a significant net benefit for the college and the community at large. Students who receive their education awards generally use it to pay school related expenses at Evergreen, so the money is coming right back to the college.

"My engagement with the CCBLA has enriched both my education and my work experience. For the past two years I have been involved in the Student Work-Study Community Service Project as a participant last year and this year as the coordinator. I feel much more prepared for a career in social justice and have made lasting connections with my coworkers and the larger community."

~Evergreen Student Finn Cottom, Community Work-Study Coordinator



5 meals were organized this year with Evergreen students and Camp Quixote Residents preparing and sharing food together.

Sustainability House

The house has averaged about 4 volunteer hours per person per week during the academic year for more than 6000 volunteer hours this year!

Sustainability House is an intentional living dorm located on the Evergreen State College campus. At the Center we have a work study position that works directly with the 60 students in the house and the larger student body.

Olympia/Evergreen Tutor Collaborative Project

At least 34 elementary age students were partnered with 93 Evergreen Students who acted as tutors, mentors and lunch buddies for over 2500 hours throughout the school year.

The Tutor Project connects Evergreen students with internships and volunteer positions as tutors and mentors in high poverty Title 1 elementary schools and community education organizations

Campus Wide Internships: Evergreen registered 233 Internships with 431 organizations during 2008-09

Center for Community-Based Learning and Action

“Students, interns and work studies integrate academics with meaningful commitments in community nonprofit organizations and agencies. In the process they learn how organizations function, network, and provide necessary services. As well, members of community organizations have opportunities to interface in meaningful ways with the students ambassadors of both the Center for Community Based Learning and The Evergreen State College. I am grateful to be a CCBLA partner and ally.”

~Selena Kilmoyer, Camp Quixote/PANZA



Students at Helsing Junction on Community to Community Day in September of 2008

Community Action Coordinator Work Study Project

This year 19 students worked 2,311.13 hours at 11 different grassroots organizations throughout the greater Olympia community.

The project placed 19 Community Service State Work Study (SWS-CSP) students as Community Action Coordinators (CACs) in grassroots, non-profit organizations. Supported by HECB Community Service Work Study funds.

High Demand Math Science Work Study:
11 students spent 1,271 hour in 5 local high schools.

HECB High Demand State Work Study (HD SWS) funds the Millennial Math and Science Teacher Explorer classroom support program. Evergreen students with financial needs are placed in local High Schools to gain classroom experience.

Gateways for Incarcerated Youth

This year 60, Evergreen Students and community members spent over 3617 hours working as Challenge Partners, mentors and tutors to 66 incarcerated youth.

Since 1996, Gateways has served to educate, empower and support young people with innovative cultural, diversity and learning programs that help build self-esteem, confidence and the ability to pursue dreams.

Learn & Serve Promising Practices

- *Lewis Co. Long Term recovery, Sam Schragger & Matt Smith with American Places*
- *Stonewall Youth, Greg Mullins & Red Tremmel with Gender & Sexuality*
- *CHOICE Healthcare Network, Mike Paros, Jim Neitzal & Kevin Francis with Foundations of Health & Science*
- *Growing Places, Martha Henderson with Food Health & Sustainability*
- *Books to Prisoners, Elizabeth Williamson with Community Connections*
- *GI Voice, Zoltan Grossman with Independent Learning Contracts*
- *Camp Quixote, Alice Nelson with Student Originated Studies*
- *Joye Hardiman with Student Originated Studies*
- *Toska Olson with Student Originated Studies*
- *Russ Fox with Student Originated Studies*

This initiative supports faculty and community partners in collaborative curriculum planning by awarding fellowships to expand student learning in the community that meets crucial community needs.

Learn & Serve: Dialogue for Democracy

Quarterly Roundtables were organized with South Puget Sound Community College, Centralia College, St. Martin's University, Clark College, WSU Vancouver & Olympic College.

These dialogues create an ongoing SW Washington community-based learning network with representatives from colleges, universities, community partners and elected officials in SW Washington. Action Teams are based on congressional districts. We hosted the third Congressional district team to discuss the critical issues that face community-based service learning programs and build coalitions to meet critical community needs.

Community Partners 08-09 continued ...

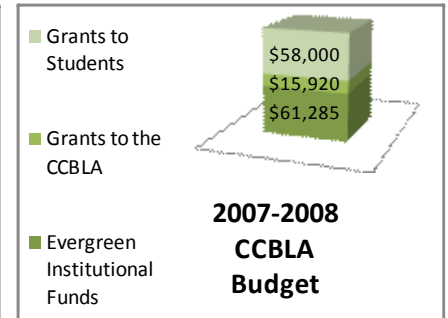
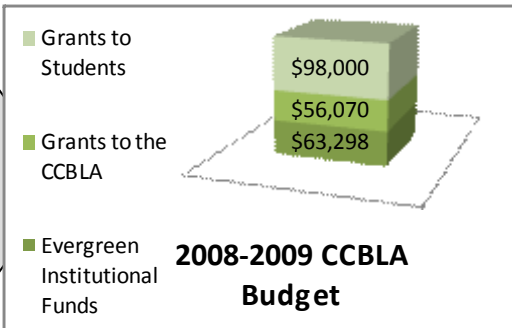
- Lewis County Long Term Recovery
- Lincoln School Garden
- Madison Elementary School
- Mason County Literacy
- Olympia Film Society
- Olympia Salvage
- Planned Parenthood
- POWER
- Rachel Corrie Foundation
- River Ridge High School
- ROOF
- Roosevelt Elementary School
- SafePlace
- Special Olympics
- Squaxin Child Development Center
- Stonewall Youth
- Tacoma Community House
- The Family Support Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- Thurston County Bookends
- Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services
- Thurston Conservation District
- Thurston County Food Bank
- Timberline High School
- TULIP Credit Union
- Tumwater High School
- USDA
- Volunteer Center of Thurston, Mason and Lewis County
- WA State Human Rights Commission
- Washington State Music Mentors
- Wolf Haven
- Women's School
- Yelm Earthworm and Castings
- YES! Community Technology Center
- YMCA Girls Without Limits

2008-2009 Total Budget \$217,368

2008-2009 CCBLA Budget					
Evergreen Institutional Funds		Grants to the CCBLA		Grants to Students	
STATE FUNDS		Learn and Serve			
Salary	\$43,639	Promising Practices	\$24,993	Students In Service	\$30,000
Benefits	\$13,059	Dialogue CDAT Grant	\$16,757	HECB Work Study CSP	\$28,000
Goods and Services	\$6,600	HECB CSP & HD SWS Admin Grants	\$12,320	HECB Work Study High Demand	\$40,000
		SIS Mini Grants	\$2,000		
Total	\$63,298	Total	\$56,070	Total	\$98,000

This year's budget highlights:

- ⇒ \$40,150 more grants to the CCBLA in 08-09
- ⇒ \$40,000 more grants to students in 08-09
- ⇒ Total grant increase of more than 100% from the 07-08 year



What's Next for CCBLA?

The next academic year brings excitement to campus community engagement at Evergreen. Despite deep state budget cuts most of our programs will continue. We will be scaling back our Learn and Serve project and are working closely with South Puget Sound Community College Career Center to collaborate on regional service learning work. We have been refunded to continue our HECB Community Service and High Demand Work Study projects. Youth in Service and WA Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA members will continue at CCBLA. Gateways for Incarcerated Youth will host two Retention Project AmeriCorps members, and have lost a program manager position. Faculty have loudly endorsed the importance of Community Based Learning at Evergreen for student learning and for faculty development. We continue to work closely with faculty of the Sustainability and Justice Initiatives at Evergreen. The Center for Community Based Learning and Action is inspired to advocate for higher education's role to serve the public and community in 2009-10.

Center for Community Based Learning and Action Advisory Committee 2008-09

Selena Kilmoyer (Camp Quixote Panza Board), Jackson Sillars (GRUB), Jim Neitzel (Evergreen Faculty, Foundations of Health Science), Peter Bohmer (Evergreen Faculty, Venezuela Program), Anne Fischel (Evergreen Faculty, Venezuela Program), Thuy Vu, (Evergreen Faculty, Building Communities Managing Organizations), Jenny Blumenstein (Mason County Literacy), Vicki Faust, (Community Youth Services, Youth is Service AmeriCorps), Mukti Khanna (Evergreen Faculty, Psychology Contract Sponsor), Tom Womeldorff (Evergreen Faculty), Velma Ragsdale (Choice Regional Health Network), Nalini Nadkarni (Evergreen Faculty, Sustainable Prisons Project), Russ Fox (Evergreen Faculty, SOS Community Based Studies), Alice Nelson (Evergreen Faculty, SOS Community Based Studies), Lin Nelson (Evergreen Faculty, Environmental Health), Finn Cottom (Evergreen Student), Natalia Palomino (CIELO Project), Jose Gutierrez (Gateways Program Manager), Elizabeth Williamson (Evergreen Faculty, Community Connections), Sandy Thompson-Royer (Safeplace), Paul Grudis (Evergreen Vista After School) & CCBLA staff

Students Contributed 25,554 Total Hours for 2008-09



QUICK FACTS

- * OVER 800 EVERGREEN STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN CCBLA ACTIVITIES
- * OVER 25,000 HOURS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WERE SUPPORTED BY THE CCBLA
- * OVER 250 EVERGREEN STUDENTS RECEIVED SUPPORT IN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FROM THE CCBLA
- * CCBLA ACTIVITIES BENEFITED OVER 267 YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY