



Office of the Executive Vice President

**Dexter Gordon, Ph.D.**

Thank you to those who attended the community gathering on Red Square yesterday to recognize the tragic loss of one of our students. I share your overwhelming emotions of sadness, despair, and anger. I'm humbled by how our community showed up to express these intense feelings during such a difficult time.

We have confirmed that one student who was injured on Monday night has been released from the hospital. The other students and our Evergreen police officer, who was injured while helping the students, are also in our thoughts as they concentrate on recovery. We are respectfully honoring the requests of families not to share the names of the impacted students at this time.

As our community continues to grieve, we wanted to provide you with some additional updates as of this evening, Thursday, December 14:

- The Washington State Patrol has concluded its on-site investigation. They brought in outside agency experts to comprehensively evaluate the scene. See the [press release](#) for additional details.
- Evergreen cooperated with the Washington State Patrol and its partners to provide full access to the facilities, staff, and students who were involved.
- Additional work will be done by the investigators in the coming days and weeks, with an estimated timeline of 30 days until we receive their final report.
- After multiple checks, no carbon monoxide has been detected inside any of the modular housing units. They each have installed detectors.
- The "A Building" dormitory and apartment buildings are not impacted by this situation. These structures all have fire and carbon monoxide detectors in each unit.
- Further safety evaluations and testing in campus housing will be continued over Winter Break in preparation for the return of students in early January.

- An email account has been created for staff and faculty to forward messages that need a coordinated college response. The email address is [Community-Response@evergreen.edu](mailto:Community-Response@evergreen.edu).
- We will also have a new webpage up shortly where more information will be posted starting tomorrow. The webpage is <https://www.evergreen.edu/campustragedy>.
- There will be a webinar for the whole community tomorrow, Friday, December 15, at 1 p.m. Look for the details via an Inside Evergreen Outlook invitation.

#### Community care resources:

- Students:
  - A grief processing group will be held with Student Wellness Services counselors on Monday, December 18, at 1 pm, in the Social Justice Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Evans Hall.
  - Counselors have some individual crisis appointments during the week of December 18-22 for the Evergreen community. Call (360) 867-6200 to learn more.
  - Appointments will also be available with our counselors upon returning to Evergreen in January 2024.
- Staff/faculty:
  - [Employee Assistance Program](#) (EAP). These resources include 24/7 support via phone at (877) 313-4455.
- All:
  - If you find yourself in immediate distress, call the [Thurston-Mason Crisis Clinic](#) at (360) 586-2800.
  - Website providing grief support. [What's Your Grief?](#)
  - Accessible anywhere, the center offers grief support groups. [Heartlight Center](#).
  - Self-guided exercises can assist with stress care for oneself. [Self-Compassion with Dr. Kristin Neff](#).
  - An alternative to the traditional five stages of grief. [Whirlpool of Grief](#)
  - A short, guided meditation allows oneself to be in the present moment, which may help to reduce stress and anxiety. [The Breathing Space](#)

A fundamental value of The Evergreen State College is acknowledgment and accountability. A terrible thing has happened to one of our own. We are committed to serving this community to the best of our ability now and into the future. Join me in keeping everyone affected by this situation in our thoughts.

**Dexter Gordon, PhD**

Executive Vice President

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