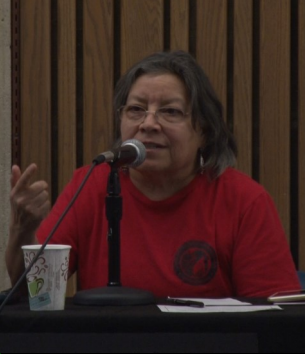


# Center for Community-Based Learning and Action

**José Gómez Farmworker Justice Day 2016**



**Presenters:**

*David Bacon, Photo Journalist,  
Ramon Torres, Familias Unidas,  
Rosalinda Guillen, Community to  
Community,  
Olympia Farmworker Justice  
Collective: Rex Reed, Eliana  
Sigelman and Grecia Ramirez*

**Thanks! WaHeLut Campus visit planners:** Madeline Rider and Serene Lawrence: Co-Coordinators Evergreen's Native Student Alliance, Roxana Bell: Youth in Service AmeriCorps, Mimi Alcantar: First People's, David Kirton: Student, Gabe Emeka: Upward Bound

## A Place for the Community to Engage



*"Our children deserve a different future. We need more indigenous students going to college, becoming doctors and lawyers. Why not, if Obama became president, why not an indigenous president?"* Ramon Torres, Familias Unidas, at Evergreen

As higher education let's join to make this a reality! Annually we hold a tribute to José Gómez, Evergreen faculty member and former United Farm Workers member, who passed away in 2014. Evergreen's public service work furthers our understanding of farm worker labor issues and worker determined strategies to demand change. This year highlighted farmworker organizing throughout the West Coast through the compelling photos of David Bacon. The work of Community to Community (based in Bellingham) as partner in this event offers a powerful, ethically compelling alternative – developing respectful connections of mutuality, solidarity and support in shaping a healthy and just food system. Student participant Lauren Roellig shared "the issues these workers are organizing around are relevant to students, Evergreen students are learning the tools and building the relationships that are necessary to be part of creating a more just and livable world for everyone." The call is to support local berry workers, Familias Unidas para La Justicia, an independent union.

### **CCBLA & Gateways Staff**

Director: Ellen Shortt Sanchez

SOS CCBLA Faculty: Mukti Khanna, Lin Nelson, Ted Whitesell

Gateways Program Coordinator: Talib Williams

Gateways Faculty: Dr. Joye Hardiman

Gateways Faculty and RWJF Grant PI:  
Chico Herbison

Gateways Events, Fundraising: Shawna Hawk

College Access Corps, Group Home AMP: Chris Glattard

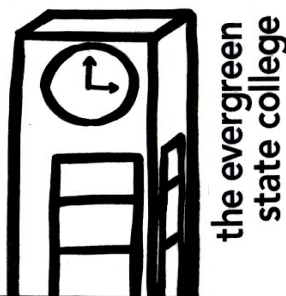
College Access Corps, Gateways Green Hill AMP  
Coordinator: Amy Walsh

Community Service Work Study Program Coordinator:  
Andrew Glassbrook

YIS AmeriCorps Tutor Mentor Coordinator: Roxana Bell

Campus Food Bank TCFB Coordinator: Jordan Billiot

**WA HE LUT  
COLLEGE  
ACCESS  
DAY**



Logo by Native Student Alliance

**EVERGREEN**  
THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE  
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON



## Community Work

Lin Nelson interviewed by Roxana Bell,  
YIS AmeriCorps Tutor & Mentor Coordinator  
February 24th, 2016.

When I came here in 1991 as a part-time faculty before becoming full-time, I realized that Evergreen likes to think of itself (and sometimes this is true and it's something we need to work on) as engaged with the surrounding communities and that we believe in or are engaged around issues of popular education and participatory research. Evergreen already had two earlier renditions of this center and those efforts died for lack of funds. A small group of faculty and students had worked to keep them going, including Ellen Shortt Sanchez [CCBLA director] who had been a student intern.

In the 90s faculty began to say that we needed to revive this Center. Various people had been involved including Jacintha McCoy (who's picture hangs in the Center), Russ Fox, and I were all part of a faculty/staff coalition group that looked into to reviving the Center. What we asked ourselves were questions like: What would a Center like this be? Who would need this Center? What would our relationships be with our neighbors? Who else is doing this type of work? How do we connect a place like Evergreen who seems committed to this work? How do we strengthen our commitment and give it legs on a daily basis and make it real?

We had a two-year process where we sat and listened to community partners who gave us a clear, honest and, at times, a challenging view of ourselves. They [community partners] said things like, "we like working with you but we need you to be more steadfast, committed, and with us over time in a deep and more predictable way". Part of our intent was to learn whether we should revive or recreate a center for Community-Based Learning (this was around 1999-2002).

Jacinta McCoy, more than anybody, who spearheaded this process. She passed away just around the time the Center was opened in 2004. Jacinta helped Anne Fischel and I have a mini-center in the COM Bldg. where our Local Knowledge students would gather and collect resources around 2001-2002. Jacintha was a committed, skilled, generous person, who worked hard to ask critical questions here.

The Center for Community Based Learning and Action opened in 2004, and soon after Ellen came in as the director and gave it a lot of oxygen. One more thing I think it's important for people to hear. There's a pecking order of privilege in higher education: research, teaching, community collaboration and community-based work. Community-based work is often seen as lesser, not as rigorous, not as challenging. I flip this, I say to be engaged in the community involves research and teaching, but it's a collaborative process that takes a lot of commitment and continual learning and moments of great humility when you realized you've screwed up. It can be very valuable. Community work is vital. It is vital to the education that students receive here.

For a lot of people who have this interest, it probably comes out of people's daily concerns or longings to understand something and maybe their involvement in social issues and movements. For me, a particular ignition point was the women's health movement in the 1960s and 70s. The women's health movement issued a powerful challenge to medicine: that we respect you [the

*In partnership with United Way of Thurston County, Evergreen students served our community during our long term Community to Community Day for orientation week!*



medical establishment] as practitioners sometimes, but you do not own medicine or health care and you do not own our bodies. We should have rights and access to information that allows us to partner with you about our health and critically assess the health information we are getting. The women's health movement came to life in relationship to other movements at that time: Civil Rights, Black Panthers, Anti-War that were all really democratizing.

The women's health movement was very militant around issues of access to abortion, which was illegal at the time and there were women running underground abortion clinics in Chicago and other big cities. The women's health movement for me was very riveting around questions about who owns knowledge? How do we grow knowledge together in a democratic way? Who owns what and why and for what purposes? For me that was the birthplace of my thinking around everything.

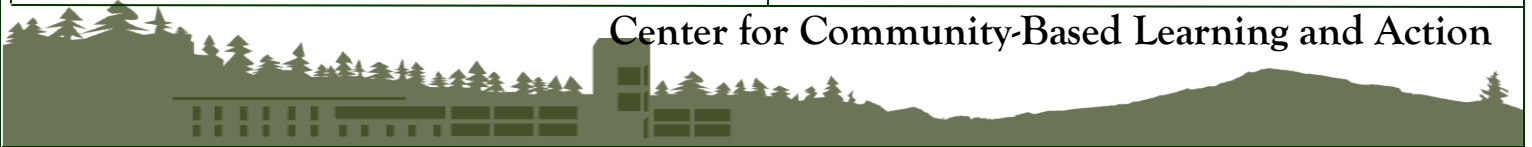
I got through a lot of agitation and anguish about colleges and universities. I'm not easily a happy camper in academic arenas. I think for people who are interested in bridging academic and community-based work, it's not so easy to always do that.

What keeps me going is just finding like-minded people or having an SOS:CCBLA class like today's. It was a really good day for me as I could see and witness the students bridging academics and community, and how what they are engaged in now could guide and activate them in future work. When I see that, then I feel fine [about the future]. There are many people in universities and colleges who, if they undertake community collaborative work, they do it at risk to their own careers. I don't have that problem since I've been around a long time, but for younger newer faculty it can be difficult.

Look at Flint, Michigan it is a high education state with major universities. They should have been on it there. But the incentive for professionals in health and education is to be really tight around their possession of knowledge and to not put themselves at much risk many times. It took a woman doctor, a pediatrician, and then some other faculty member at Virginia Tech—in collaboration with the community in Flint—to break the silence on what was going on there. It was a very good example of the relationship between concerned aggrieved citizens who knew they were being violated, and they found scientists who had the guts, intelligence, and commitment to partner with them to examine the issues there. So what keeps me going is looking around for other folks who are doing powerful work that moves the knowledge to where it needs to go.

On a continuum, I hope students gain the deepest, most impassioned well-grounded knowledge. On the other end of the continuum but related, I hope they find a job. I would like to know that students are building their capacity to work on issues that they are passionate about. It bothers me that students are facing these economic crises while bursting to build their knowledge and go.

This is why I encourage students to write about their experiences. They need to respect their own thinking and their own voice and to feel like they are making this work their own.





## Gateways for Incarcerated Youth

Shawna Hawk,

*Gateways Events, Fundraising, Communications Coordinator*

This has been a year of rapid movement and expansion for the Gateways program. Building on the work that was started in previous years we have been able to gain a much more diverse group of volunteers and develop stronger partnerships within the community. We have held a number of events this year in an attempt to gain more visibility on the Evergreen campus and in the Olympia community as a whole. We have held events such as open mic's, brunches, kickball tournaments and more. Community members have hosted fundraisers with Heart Sparkle Players and Media Island.

Our team has been able to simultaneously address the issues that persist from 2013 around police shootings, choking and other forms of death that Black men and women have had to endure while in police custody. We have been able to engage in deeper dialogue and action around race, racism, and white privilege, yet we have much more to do. We have provided more opportunities for incarcerated young men of color to share their own stories and strategies through art, music and autobiographical writing.

We will have an Open Mic/Dance with a theme of "Coming together and sharing stories" on April 29<sup>th</sup>. We also have a kickball tournament coming up on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May and a basketball tournament on June 4<sup>th</sup>. As a part of our Evergreen campus community partnership we will be offering a workshop during the Day of Absence/Day of Presence cultural activities on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Also check us out on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/gatewaysforincarceratedyouth/?fref=ts> **Visit Gateways' table at Olympia Arts walk April 22nd and 23rd.**



Gateways College Access  
AmeriCorps member Chris Glattard  
works with youth at Lincoln Elementary  
School Gardens for Community  
to Community Day

## Open Mic

a benefit for

**Gateways**  
for incarcerated youth



**Thursday, Nov 19th 7pm**

The Evergreen State College Library  
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW (Lib) 2200 Lobby  
Olympia, Washington 98505

**\$5** Suggested  
Donation  
Winner Receives Prize!

In association with



**Gateways**  
for incarcerated youth

**2nd Annual Fundraiser**

**The Resiliency Ball**

Hosted By Lady Hawk & Double B  
Featuring DJ Pasquan

Open Mic &  
**Dance**  
Support Your Community!

**Thursday, Jan 14th 7pm**

The Evergreen State College Long House  
2800 Dogtooth Ln NW  
Olympia, WA 98505

**\$5** Suggested  
Donation

In association with



**Save the Dates:**

**Gateways Kickball  
Tournament**

**Saturday, May 14th  
9am-4pm**

TESC Soccer Fields, Registration fee is  
\$10 per player or \$100/team.

&

**Basketball Tournament  
for GATEWAYS**

**SAT June 4th!**

**Evergreen CRC**

**Gateways 2015-16 Special Events**

**Many Thanks to:**  
Jean Eberhardt, Lee  
Miller and Carol  
Watson for Birthday  
Celebrations Fundrais-  
ers for Gateways!

**Center for Community-Based Learning and Action**

Save the date:

## LEAD Graduation

Literacy and Education for Adults with Disabilities

Monday, June 6th

6:30pm–8:30pm

Evergreen Longhouse

2013 LEAD Graduates & Tutors



### On-Campus Thurston County Satellite Food Bank

Needs Volunteers!

The TESC Satellite Food Bank is open from 4-6pm on Tuesdays in the Center for Community-Based Learning and Action (CCBLA) Sem II E2115. Set up begins between 12:30 and 3pm and clean up ends by 6:30pm. Volunteer Orientation is available every Monday 3-5pm in the CCBLA Sem II E2115. We are looking for:

**Van Driver:** (Every Tuesday) Pick up a food bank van from TC Food Bank and drive it to the bus loop at Evergreen, help unload the van at CCBLA, then return van. (valid driver's license and over 21 are requirements for this position)

**Registrar:** "Front Desk position", using our computer Check-in system to record visits, intake and orient new customers to how the food bank works using the shopping model. (familiarity with excel and a firm respect for privacy/confidentiality is required)

**Bag Master:** Keeping a supply of paper or reusable bags available for people to pick up as they visit. Restocking supplies as people shop, clearing out empty boxes.

**Refrigerator Room Attendant:** Needed to supervise this area, help people pick out eggs/ show them where they are.

**Outreach and correspondence:** We need signs to be made! Update Facebook page, post a Greener Commons message every week.

**Contact Campus Food Bank Coordinator:** Jordan Billiot at, [Billiotj@evergreen.edu](mailto:Billiotj@evergreen.edu) or 360-867-6866.

\* Emails: please include why you are interested in volunteering, which role you prefer and what type of commitment you are able to make.

### Community Service: Work Study

*Andrew Glassbrook, CCBLA Work Study Coordinator*

Since 2012, the CCBLA has been coordinating the Community Service Work Study Program. This program connects students who have been awarded work study positions through financial aid to thirteen community partner organizations. Through ten hours of paid employment per week, students gain valuable skills at a variety of non-profits in the Olympia and Shelton areas. Students are truly reclaiming the "study" aspect of work study, as they develop and gain skills directly linked to the fields they hope to pursue post-college.

This program helps students learn and supports non-profits partners. As the students gain valuable experience, the host sites gain dedicated workers to help build their infrastructure and have an increase in their ability to meet community needs.

This program provides students with rich opportunities to apply academic learning to real-world problems, explore and develop their interest in public and community service, and develop interpersonal, teamwork, and leadership skills. Importantly students develop a sense of "self-efficacy" – the recognition that one's efforts can be effective in improving the community and helping others.

The positions offer students experience: working with diverse communities; learning new, career-related skills; and exploring potential career paths and developing career-supporting references. Evergreen's CCBLA Work Study students can leave a positive legacy in communities across Thurston and Mason Counties.



Community Service Work study Service at Food Bank



**Thurston County Food Bank Satellite**  
*Now Open at Evergreen*

Tuesdays 4-6PM  
At the CCBLA: Sem II E2115

for more information call 360.867.6137  
or email [billiotj@evergreen.edu](mailto:billiotj@evergreen.edu)

Brought to you by Student Affairs, the Campus Food Coalition, the Center for Community Based Learning and Action and the Thurston County Food Bank