

Center for Community-Based Learning and Action

EVERGREEN

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

2008 Fall Newsletter



*Seminar II E 2125, Olympia Campus; 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW; Olympia, WA 98505;
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CCBLA is Evergreen's Service Learning Center, engaging students in meaningful community work as part of their higher education.

Cycles of Community Contribution

Ellen Shortt Sanchez, Director

Photos by Hilary Hacker

PROGRAMS

- **Gateways for Incarcerated Youth** - Since 1996, Gateways has served to educate, empower and support young people with innovative cultural diversity and learning programs that build self-esteem, confidence and the ability to pursue dreams.
- **Students in Service** - Tuition awards for community work, an AmeriCorps program for students. (WA Campus Compact).
- **Work-study positions at community organizations** - Building links between TESC and the community at large (HECBCSP).
- **High Demand Math and Science** classroom support positions at local high schools.
- **Tutor Project** - Tutors for high poverty elementary schools in Olympia (Youth in Service).
- **Sustainability Action Days** - Providing community engagement opportunities for campus residents.
- **Project Planning** - Supporting students and faculty looking for community connections.

The Center for Community Based Learning and Action is approaching its fifth year! The strong roots of our programs come from unanimous faculty support and active community partners. Stories of Evergreen contributions to community work are powerful. Community based learning at Evergreen follows students who explore and analyze community issues, learn new skills, support organizational work, then graduate and work at creating innovative jobs in our community that, in turn, guide current Greeners.

Stonewall Youth is a prime example of this cycle. The organization emerged after a group contract by Evergreen students empowering local queer youth. CCBLA is working with former director and current academic advisor Dayla Perez, former student intern Finn Cotton, current work study Alejandra Abreu, faculty Greg Mullins and Stonewall volunteer coordinator Katrina Stern. The group will chronicle the long term partnership and offer on campus organizational information sessions.

During fall quarter I visited organizations in pairs. I joined the center's Student Originated Studies (SOS) faculty Alice Nelson at community organizations and with AmeriCorps and project staff I visited local schools. Nothing is more powerful than the chance to be off campus seeing the impacts of student learning in action. During our visit to Safeplace we met a greener grad who now mentors two interns who work with children affected by trauma of domestic violence. A third intern in the Community Based Learning SOS program and Safeplace staff Sandi Royer-Thompson was awarded an Evergreen Foundation Activity grant to work with fellow staff and MPA student Alejandro Rugarcia for domestic violence prevention outreach in the Latino community.

Learn and Serve funded faculty-

community partner fellowships through CCBLA are supporting collaborations that develop community-based curriculum. This fall the academic program 'American Places' has created student projects with Lewis County Long term flood recovery. The 'SOS Community Based Learning' program partnered with Camp Quixote homeless tent city and helped bring homeless activist Willie Baptist to campus.

The impact of our work at CCBLA strengthens networks where students, faculty and community partners become advocates who mobilize involvement in our community as learners and engaged community members. With the climate of upcoming budget cuts we are sharing these impacts in numbers. Our investment in community efforts multiplies with students recruiting others and faculty enlisting entire programs to participate.



Ellen with Carol Minugh, founder of Gateways for Incarcerated Youth visiting the Tacoma Campus in October, 2008

CCBLA and Gateways Staff

Director: Ellen Shortt Sanchez
Learn and Serve/High Demand Coordinator: Jacob Berkey
VISTA Community Partnership Catalyst: Hilary Hacker
SIS Coordinators: Heidi Stygar and Alex Dreyer
Community Action Work-Study Coordinator: Finn Cotton
CYS AmeriCorps Tutor Coordinator: Adriana Puzkiewicz
Gateways Dreamer and Schemer: Carol Minugh
Gateways Program Manager: Jose S. Gutierrez Jr.
Retention Project Gateways Challenge Program: Samantha Franks



An Afternoon with YWCA's Girls Without Limits! Program

Adriana Puskiewicz, YIS AmeriCorps



Adriana reading at the Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Timberland Library in Shelton

The side-conversations stop as the ten Roosevelt Elementary School Students stand solemnly around the table plastered with newspaper. In the middle of the table is a female Chinook salmon that the program coordinator has just removed from a black garbage bag. The girls have been learning about salmon for weeks as part of a broader watershed curriculum; and can name five species of salmon upon request; their ideal conditions of habitat; and ways to distinguish types of salmon. None of these 4th and 5th grade girls have ever dissected a salmon before and most would not have an opportunity to do so without a supportive small-group environment like **Girls Without Limits!**

Some of the girls are disturbed, the program coordinator assures them that the salmon died at the end of its natural life cycle, before it was harvested and donated for dissection. Somewhat relieved, the group erupts in a flurry of questions: "Can we see the brain?" "Why does its fin clipped? Is it from the Nisqually hatchery?" "Where's its lungs?" "She has a lot of eggs. Do you think she spawned at all?" Throughout the process the girls crowd around with curiosity and examine the carcass with extreme care.

Thus begins the quarter's final hands-on learning activity at YWCA's Girls Without Limits! An after-school program: a free mentoring program for girls ages 9-14 focused on cultivating self-esteem and building skills in math, science, technology, business, and public service. The GWOL! Program strives to provide young girls with the "tools they will need to overcome the gender inequity they face in the academic and professional worlds". Unfortunately, Girls Without Limits! Has been discontinued through Winter Quarter. It will return to four local schools in Spring.

Student Action Days

Hilary Hacker, VISTA Partnership Catalyst



Hilary and Chriset harvesting potatoes on Community to Community Day

Action Days help students make connections within their community as they learn about issues that face the community.

In October we headed down to Chehalis to better understand the floods of December 2007. We spent the day helping to get rid of a pile of debris and learning about the devastation. Chantal Brouillard a student in the Gateways, Popular Education and Political Economy program said, "It was interesting to see first hand

the damage done by the floods and the history of the damage by floods in the area. The recovery process is still underway and it felt good to be able to contribute." *cntd, p. 3.*

Gateways for Incarcerated Youth: The Retention Project

Samantha Franks, Retention Project AmeriCorps



Samantha Franks making things happen during our Flood Relief Action Day

Samantha is the 2008-09 AmeriCorps member in the Retention Project working with Gateways for Incarcerated Youth. She coordinates the Gateways Challenge Program which recruits Evergreen students to participate in educational partnerships with incarcerated youth.

As we enter the beginning of a new quarter Gateways is going strong. We currently have 17 volunteers going into the institutions every week as educational partners for the Challenge Program. We hope that this number will continue to grow as the quarter progresses.

Gateways works in a variety of different ways. There are 25 Evergreen students participating in the college and diversity class at both Maple Lane and Green Hill. In this program Evergreen students travel to Green Hill and Maple Lane maximum security juvenile institutions to participate as co-learners alongside Incarcerated youth, design and facilitate weekly diversity workshops, and organize fundraising events, these students are extremely passionate about showing their commitment to the Gateways program and the residents in the classes. There are also five residents who participated in the AA online degree program through Grays Harbor Community College, all received full credit. Gateways also hosts monthly cultural events at each institution, Emily Sladek continues to bring powerful presenters and performers.

This quarter we have many fundraisers to look forward to, the annual prom which will take place January 23rd, a sock-hop, poetry slams, Krispy Kreme donuts and much more. With tuition costs going up Gateways is struggling to compete. The money raised goes directly to the youth involved in the program. Last quarter between our calendar fundraiser and the college classes fundraising Gateways raised over \$3,000 dollars which allows us to cover tuition costs for the five residents we have in On-line classes with Grays Harbor.

Thanks to all of the students and dedicated volunteers who help make this organization possible and to all those who helped put together the 2009 Gateways Diversity Calendar, which contains artwork and poetry created by incarcerated youth. There are still a few copies left so stop in and get one today!



The Gateways and CCBLA welcomed Jose S. Gutierrez Jr. as the new Gateways Program Manager in August of 2008.

"It's an honor to be a part of Gateways and a privilege to work with and support such brilliant young people."

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Community Work-study in Action

Finn Cottom, CCBLA Work-Study Coordinator, Student



The CCBLA receives grant for funding ten work study positions in the community. Each position is fully funded by the grant allowing grass-roots organizations to have an extra staff person that they might not otherwise be able to afford. Each work-study student has the opportunity to gain experience working in non-profits while helping achieve something they believe in.

The organizations currently participating are: The CIELO Project, Stonewall Youth, Bread and

Roses, Rachel Corrie Foundation, Thurston County Food Bank, Camp Quixote, Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights, Family Support Center, and Tulip Low-income Credit Union.

There were many students excited about these opportunities which helped to quickly fill the spots. We got a very positive response from students who wanted to work in these positions and filled almost all the available spots quickly. This demonstrates the importance of offering this chance to students who want to take action in Olympia.

As part of our program we offer monthly trainings to the students who are involved. We have been co-planning these workshops to work across projects with Students in Service, Evergreen/Olympia Collaborative Tutor Project, and Gateways Challenge Partners. We have collectively focused on community building and also on anti-oppression. This education is extremely important so that students working in these non-profits can have an institutional framework as part of their larger vision. This enables them to be learning about the structures functioning in society while doing their individual part to create justice. We are also hoping to work more closely with the Community Based Student Originated Studies through out the next year so that we can cross pollinate this information with more of the student body.

Upcoming trainings include Youth Empowerment with Seattle Young People's Project, Dispute Resolution, Non-Violent Communication and Volunteer Recruitment. We hope for these skills to enrich people's work in the community in the present and also prepare them to keep taking action in their communities in the future.

Thank you to all who have taken part in the work study project. There has been a lot of passion, interaction, and interest and that is what helps to create a network of change.

**Project funded by HECB Community Service Project funds*



Heidi Stygar has been with the CCBLA since May of 2008. She is a participant in the Senior Community Service Program (SCSEP) and has become an invaluable member of the team.

"Community to me is the world, all species-flora and fauna."

CCBLA Documentary

Hilary Hacker, VISTA Partnership Catalyst



Zach getting some good action shots while students prepare a Thanksgiving Meal to share at Camp Quixote.

The CCBLA is starring in its own documentary film! We have been lucky enough to have Zach Dolan, a student working on an independent contract through the CCBLA's Student Originated Studies Program. Zach and I have been working together to direct and produce this film. The goal is to document the work and connections of the CCBLA within the greater community of Olympia. Most importantly we are looking to show to freshman and new students at Evergreen the amazing work that is happening within their new community. We hope to inspire them to be involved as well as make it easier to plug themselves in by introducing them to dedicated community members and organizations through this film. Another important aspect of this film is to portray the work of students and their experiences in the community.

Participating organizations include; POWER, Bread & Roses, Camp Quixote, The Birth Attendants, De Colores Books, CIELO Project, Circle Hawk Farm, Left Foot Organics, Safe Place, Family Support Center, GRuB, Stonewall Youth, Inmigrantes Unidos, Books to Prisoners, Gateways for Incarcerated Youth and all of the CCBLA staff, including faculty members Alice Nelson, Joye Hardiman, Russ Fox and Lin Nelson.

The film is scheduled to be completed in March of 2009.

CCBLA is now on Facebook!

Student Action Days Continued...



The Point Drive at the Greenery

Our November Action Day happened thanks to a successful Point Drive on campus where Aramark allowed students to donate a block meal from their meal plan to Camp Quixote. With 80 donated block meals we were given more than enough food to prepare a Pre-Thanksgiving meal to share with Camp Quixote. The response was amazing and we reached our goal within an hour.

On November 22nd, over 25 students and staff got together to prepare the meal on campus and the food was taken down to the Camp where we had a wonderful community dinner.

Future Action Days

January 19th, MLK Day: "Experiencing Equality" at Madison Elementary School.

February 21st: Thurston County Conservation District's annual Plant Sale.

March 7th: Fertile Ground Guest House getting things ready for the spring season. We'll get to make pizza in their cob oven!



Students cooking in the Longhouse kitchen.

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Dialogue for Democracy

Jacob Berkey, Learn and Serve/High Demand Coordinator



Jacob leading a training

CCBLA is creating a network of local service learning programs, Congressional District Action Teams. Working with St. Martins, Centralia College, SPSCC, Clark College and WSU Vancouver we are initiating regional collaboration. This southwest Washington community-based learning network has representatives from colleges, community partners and the legislature. Action Teams are based on congressional districts.

We are hosting the team from the third Congressional district. The team discusses critical issues that face community-based service learning programs. It is our aim to build coalitions that meet pressing community needs in the area through proactive outreach. Teams meet quarterly and we are planning a culminating gathering in summer 2009.

Network meetings will allow representatives to connect across institutional lines to develop community service learning priorities and advocacy steps. It is our hope that community partners will ultimately benefit from higher educations coordinated effort to address local community needs.

Students in Service

Heidi Stygar, Students in Service Coordinator

Students in Service has been on the Evergreen campus for four years. Currently there are fifty-two students enrolled in the program and thirty-two slots left to be filled throughout this academic year. This year we have over 50 positions available with a combined education award potential of over \$70,000.00.



Students in Service member, Chantal Brouillard and Gina Glover clearing the truck bed during a Flood Relief Centered Action Day in Chehalis.

The purpose of the Students in Service program is to meet critical community needs by engaging higher education students in service as part-time AmeriCorps members. Through the program, students are introduced to local, regional, and national service-learning opportunities. Student members serve in partnership with schools and community-based organizations in the areas of education, human services, the environment, public safety, and community development. With

rising tuition costs the education award earned upon successful completion of the program helps make service a viable opportunity for students with financial need.

This year Students have used their volunteer hours to such Projects as: Long Term Recovery, Camp Quixote, Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, The CIELO Project, De Colores Books, Parent to Parent Program, The Olympia/Evergreen Tutor Collaborative and much more.

3/4 of a Million \$ for Community

Students in Service TESC Multiplier Effect*

With this simple graph it is easy to see that for each Federal Dollar spent on Students in Service Education Awards there is a multiplier effect of \$11.36. The rate of \$1 buying \$11.36 is based on the national rate that a volunteer is worth per hour.

With the economic downturn and concern over the state budget we have decided to include this simple illustration of the multiplier effect that a program like Students in Service has. It is easy to see that our Community Partners have benefitted greatly by having these students participate in this program. So far students have contributed 3/4 of a million dollars of their time to the community!

\$1.00 = \$11.36

	Volunteer \$ Hours	Service Hours	Ed Award \$	Students
05	\$276,768	14,186	\$33,534.00	29
06	\$248,693	12,747	\$20,948.00	32
07	\$224,443	11,504	\$12,362.00	42
08	\$7,179	368		14
	\$757,085	38,805	\$66,844.00	117

(*Figures are based on Bureau of Labor Statistics, \$19.51 hour, determined by Independent Sector Research.

http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)

Interested in Students in Service?
Call 867 6866 or e mail sis@evergreen.edu

Check out the CPJ weekly to find volunteer opportunities and community events from our partners compiled by the CCBLA in our column titled:
Be a Part of It, Evergreen!
Olympia Community Connections.



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