

Center for Community-Based Learning and Action

EVERGREEN

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

2010 Winter/Spring Newsletter



Students prepare lunch at Hip Hop 4 The Homeless

Seminar II E 2125, Olympia Campus; 2700 Evergreen Parkway NW; Olympia, WA 98505;
(360) 867-6137; ccbla@evergreen.edu
www.evergreen.edu/communitybasedlearning

CCBLA is Evergreen's Service Learning Center. We address social issues while strengthening and enhancing student experience by supporting our communities' ability to meet critical needs.

Service & Access to Higher Education

Director, Ellen Shortt Sanchez

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 (HECB funded).
- **High Demand Math and Science** - classroom support positions at local high schools (HECB funded).
- **Tutor Project** - Tutors for high poverty elementary schools in Olympia (Youth in Service).
- **Action Days** - Providing community engagement opportunities for students.
- **Project Planning** - Supporting students and faculty looking for community connections.

As public debates consider the value of higher education in an economic downturn, Community Based Learning (CBL) advocates have much to add to the discussion. Evergreen's Center for Community Based Learning and Action hears daily stories from students and community partners about the challenges to survive. Community organizations struggle to find funds. Public Service in higher education public service programs face budget cuts while school costs and student debts are increasing. This is the time to see CBL as a solution.

Learn: The model of CBL is an academic model that introduces students to theory and provides the background to understand organizations, community issues and students' roles in the community. The applied learning that follows in community settings provides the practice needed to see theory in action. Students build skills that lead to future work opportunities. At CCBLA we have students exploring the field of teaching, street outreach, international issues and food security. As winter quarter ends there are powerful student presentations on campus. Academic programs have been showcasing the work students have done to understand homelessness, support seniors, learn with incarcerated youth, build international solidarity and connect with GI issues. (See *Academic Programs Need The CCBLA*, p. 4)

Serve: Contributing to social and environmental justice is service to our community. Many of our local non-profit organiza-

tions continue the war on poverty. Students engaged in our communities support organizations during economic hard times. Interns and work study positions become staff members and join community partners at their sites. These students are providing service and learning through applied, hand-on experience. Community sites that work with Evergreen students contact CCBLA to share their appreciation for student contributions to their work.

Earn: Students are struggling with the increased cost of higher education. They are also facing increased debt. State work study students in our Community Service Project work at nonprofit organizations. While studying, CBL students are also gathering skills to learn how organizations work that build work experience. CCBLA hosts a Math and Science Teachers State Work Study that places students at local middle and high school classrooms. These are crucial opportunities for students to make money to fund school. The AmeriCorps Students in Service tuition award also offers the chance for compensation as students serve the community. For 300 hours of approved student engagement students can earn a \$1000 tuition award.

CCBLA and Gateways Staff

Director: Ellen Shortt Sanchez
VISTA Community Partnership Catalyst: Andrea Robbins
CYS AmeriCorps Tutor & Mentor Coordinator: Brian Fligner
SIS Coordinators: Andreas Keodara & Yoshi Nagata
CCBLA Newsletter Coordinator: Hilary Hacker
AmeriCorps Gateways Cultural Group Coordinator: Samantha Franks
AmeriCorps Gateways Challenge Program Coordinator: Aaron Lee



Students in Service

Chantal Brouillard, Student in Service Alumni



Chantal (center) on her first day with the CCBLA at Lincoln Elementary Garden on Community to Community 2007

There is much to be said about participating in and helping to organize meaningful, valuable community service. The time I dedicated to the AmeriCorps Students in Service (SIS) program was more than just a 12-month, 450-hour commitment of volunteer service. It was an opportunity to become more active in the community I had recently become a part of – The Evergreen State College, the city of Olympia, and the greater Thurston County.

In 2007, as part of the CCBLA's annual Community-to-Community Day, I volunteered at Lincoln Elementary School's Organic Garden. This service was my first introduction to the CCBLA, and ultimately led to my involvement in the SIS program. My initial involvement in the Community-to-Community Day helped to reignite my passion for doing community work. It wasn't until a year later that I learned of the SIS program and the opportunity to act on my interests and passions for volunteer work by making a commitment to complete a certain amount of service hours. In addition to gaining knowledge, skills and experiences I would also receive a tuition award on the completion of my hours.

After signing up for the SIS Program, my commitment to complete 450 hours was split between direct service, fundraising, and personal member development hours. In order to complete these hours I set up site contracts with Camp Quixote (a tent city in Olympia), the Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, as well as the CCBLA. I was also able to attend many lectures, films, and trainings, while helping to organize and execute different fundraising events. With each site I had the privilege of being a part of the organization, learning about its history, and the work being done. I also made connections to my new home and the people in it, while learning from these organizations their approaches to achieving tangible solutions and alternatives to the many challenges that face our community.

My site contract with the CCBLA introduced me to many organizations that otherwise I might not have known about, which allowed me to open doors for future work with organizations that match my interests, passions, and goals. I attended many of CCBLA's Action Days and was able to participate in a variety of work such as: helping with a Native Plant Sale for the Thurston County Conservation District, working at the Olympia chapter of Books to Prisoners, going to the NW Detention Center to provide support and food for families traveling to visit their friends or family at the ICE De-

tention Center in Tacoma and prepare a few meals with Camp Quixote and The Family Support Center. This work allowed me to come full circle. In 2009 I was asked to lead a team of volunteers for Community-to-Community Day.

My time in the SIS Program allowed me to learn about serious issues that threaten, as well as unite, our local and global communities. My work in this program helped expose me to large community issues of homelessness, poverty, and incarceration, while teaching me how members of a community can work together towards solving such large issues.

If it were not for my involvement in this program my ties and depth of relations to Evergreen and the Olympia community would be severely weakened and my search to fund my college tuition would be that much harder. This program inspired and taught me so much while opening doors for future partnerships and collaborations surrounding my passions.



Chantal with Richard of Camp Quixote during a CCBLA Action

For more information about Students in Service (SIS)

Contact Yoshi or Andreas

867.6866 or sis@evergreene.edu

You can also visit the SIS website at

www.studentsinservice.org

Faculty Are Invited To Share Popular Education at Evergreen and Gateways

Tony Zaragoza, Faculty

This summer's Faculty Institute will share ideas, experiences, and resources concerning popular education in all its varieties as practiced at Evergreen and in communities. On the morning of the first day, we will discuss popular education and the work of the Gateways program as an example along with what other participants have to offer. In the afternoon we will visit one of the incarcerating facilities we work with and have a workshop facilitated by some of the incarcerated students. On the morning of the second day, we will debrief the experience using a short reading to focus our discussion. Finally, we will consider how to further apply ideas of popular education to our work at Evergreen. No experience with popular education is necessary, and as we prepare for the institute, participants will be asked to offer ideas, questions, and issues related to popular education for our discussion. Some questions of interest include: What is popular education? Why popular education? What are some of the issues involved in popular education in institutionalized settings? How might those interested in popular education support one another in its theory and practice at Evergreen and beyond? Faculty interested in more information? Contact The CCBLA!

Behind The Wall

Hilary Hacker & Alicia Martinson
ORSMP Steering Committee

The ultimate goal of the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project (ORSMP) is to use art, culture and technology in innovative ways to increase the strength and visibility of the movement for social justice not only in Palestine and Israel, but also in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Over the course of a year, approximately 200 artists, activists and social justice organizations from Olympia to the Bay Area, across the USA to the West Bank and Gaza in Palestine have participated in the Mural Project by designing individual leaves for the olive tree.

The current phase, Phase 3 of the project is the implementation of Unique Technological Components from each participating organization. Each image will have several audio and video tracks accessible by phone as well as the mural's website. Viewers will be able to dial a local number and listen to information, poetry, music, interviews, etc. linked to different images in the mural.

This phase will be completed and unveiled at a dedication ceremony, *The Mural Speaks*, on May 8, 2010. *The Mural Speaks* event will be held in coordination with the People's Assembly and will celebrate the completion of the multimedia components of the mural. There will be live music and performances by all local and international mural participants to highlight their work and its contribution to social justice and equality worldwide.

In Phase 4 the entire project will be captured in an experimental documentary. Called: *A Tale of Two Cities, The Legacy of Rachel Corrie*, the film looks at trauma, resilience, resistance and creativity, offering audiences an exciting insider's view of the multi-faceted process.

Each phase of the Olympia-Rafah project has successfully articulated the importance of creating cross-movement partnerships and highlighted the impact of transgressing boundaries. The project continues, and with each completed phase, more fully illuminates and strengthens a shared quest for justice and equality across continents, cultures and causes. Visit olympiarafahmural.org for more info!



Alicia Martinson preparing the leaves for the olive tree on the wall.
The leaf pictured here was created by CCBLA staff!

On April 17th, The Olympia Rafah Solidarity Mural Project is hosting a benefit show, *The Mural Get Down* at The Loft on Cherry. *The Mural Get Down* will be a full night of live music performed by local Olympia bands such as Def Lester, Razz M'tazz, Shark Pact, Weird TV, Night Fox and more! All funds raised will contribute to the completion of the Olympia Rafah Solidarity Mural Project, including supplies, installation equipment and the shipping and printing of more images from artists in Palestine and around the world!

Academic Programs Need The CCBLA

Andrea Robbins, CCBLA Community Partnership Catalyst



Andrea in action with student, Jayanika Lawrence at Harmony Hill Retreat Center for Cancer Patients and Families

Spring quarter 2010 has brought many interns into the greater Olympia Community. Currently there are more than 6 programs requiring students to participate in Community-Based Learning projects in order to earn credits. The CCBLA has supported over 300 students out of Evergreen's 4,000 this quarter alone. This influx of engagement requires CCBLA staff to create systems for tracking student service.

This means that 7.6% of undergraduate students at evergreen are officially participating in Service-Learning curriculum!

This increase of Community-Based curriculum puts Evergreen in a leadership position amongst 2 and 4 year colleges throughout the state of Washington, many of which are just beginning to consider the importance of service learning. Application of theory to practice is essential for student learning and leadership development. This has always been a value of Evergreen which continues to build partnerships and be an asset within the larger community. Evergreen is unique in having faculty and students who understand the value of Community-Based experience. Amongst colleges in Washington with service-learning centers, Evergreen has an extremely high level of faculty participation, support, and communication within The CCBLA. A big thanks to the staff and faculty who have made Evergreen an incredible place to engage with the community.

Programs with Service-Learning Curriculum

- American Frontiers
- American Stories
- Awakening the Dreamer
- Civic Intelligence
- Community-Based Research
- Cultural Landscapes
- Life of Things
- Social Dilemmas
- Soul's Value Money's Worth



The Olympia Free Herbal Clinic

Billie Burlock, CSP Work-Study Student

Free medicine and herbal advice? What!? I can avoid the need for expensive, often dangerous pharmaceuticals by taking care of my body, eating right, and making a few loyal plant friends?! The Olympia Free Herbal Clinic (OFHC) is an important resource for those who want to take charge of their own health. As a Community Action Work-Study student with the Clinic, I feel so lucky to be able to support this incredible community resource, especially in an age where health care options are few and far-between, particularly for low-income people.

I had been involved with the OFHC before I was hired as a Work-Study student and it has been pivotal in my understanding of how to help run a non-profit, which is often the practical side of healing with herbs. My work with the clinic is a complimentary application of my studies with plants. I am currently stewarding the sayuyay Medicinal Sister Garden in Marja Eloheimo's program working with the Evergreen's Longhouse Ethnobotanical Garden. I also plan on attending herb school after Evergreen. It's great to be observing Oregon Grape's shiny green leaves and purple berries in the garden, and the next day walk into the clinic, where Oregon Grape root tincture is being offered to real visitors to help indigestion or a stagnant liver.

Things are bustling at the clinic, open hours are becoming busier and the need for supplies is ever-increasing. Currently all the clinicians are volunteering for free. My job to support them so they feel needed. I am working on a number of projects with the clinic, most of them being fundraiser efforts like benefit shows and grantwriting. We just started a Community Sponsorship Program, a way for individuals and businesses to support the Clinic monetarily. Sponsors make either a one time donation or pledge to make a monthly donation, as little as \$5 a month. I spend my time doing outreach for the clinic; distributing fliers and brochures, sending out emails. It's amazing how much non-profit work is spent sitting in front of a computer screen writing articles and sending out emails. One day I just stood over a stove for a few hours, boiling and scrubbing tincture bottles clean.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Be part of our community sponsorship, hold a fundraiser, check out our newsletter (coming soon!) for a current list of needed supplies. We're always accepting donations of organically grown and ethically wildcrafted herbs. We love volunteers and are currently accepting applications for internships. Check out the flier at CCBLA for more information.

Working with the Clinic has been a big learning experience for me. I can't be thankful enough to Andrea, Ellen and CCBLA for running the Community Action Work Study program, fueling my interest in health and my obsession with plants!

"We offer personalized health consultations free of charge; low/no-cost natural remedies; educational workshops; a health-centered library and information; and supplies & support toward harm reduction. We aim to provide resources and referrals to other low/no-cost health services. We serve to empower people to take charge of their own health!" ~ OFHC's Mission

Meet the Olympia Free Herbal Clinic:

The White Building, Suite 212, 209 4th Ave E downtown.
Entrance is to the right of Last Word Books.
Tuesdays 3-7, Wednesdays 5-7, Thursdays 3-7

Want to volunteer?

billieburlock@gmail.com

Questions, internships, donations, etc?

olvfreeherbalclinic@riseup.net

Building Homes and Dreams

Katie Gates, Math & Science Work-Study Student

For my term with Students in Service and Math Science Teachers Work Study, I've been volunteering at Avanti High School as a math tutor. The head of Avanti's math department, Todd Thedell, gave me the opportunity and responsibility to co-teach a small math class with Adriana Puzkiewicz, the CCBLA's former tutor coordinator and now the para educator at Avanti. He gave us 5 of his math students who were struggling in the larger classroom setting, and we put together a theme class that we thought might work better. These math fearers and haters became geometry whizzes and compass masters as they designed, built, and evaluated model homes (and dreams). Originally titled "Applied Math," the class took a somewhat silly turn during the first week when we asked the students what we should call the class. They came up with "Homemakers Dreamakers" as a joke, and it stuck. We designed floorplans and built walls while learning about scale, used compasses and precision of measuring to construct roofs, and finally calculated the costs of the building materials and labor using geometry and percent ratios.

Working at Avanti offers me a glimpse into the great rewards of teaching, seeing kids who believe they aren't and will never be good at math, overcoming their doubts and making great strides in their problem solving skills and math confidence. It also offers me a glimpse into the reality of how much work and energy teaching requires. Still, it has allowed me to gain valuable classroom experience by developing my own skills as a teacher, and I am very grateful to be involved with Students in Service and the CCBLA.



Homemakers Dreammakers from L to R: Kenny, Adriana, Kathryn, Katie, Patrick, Max, and Angelic (not pictured)

Social Justice Hittin' The Airwaves

Tovah Rudowski, YIS AmeriCorps at POWER



Stella Souza, a daughter of POWER, creating change

Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER) is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and caregiving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

Our members, fed up with the mainstream media's misrepresentation of welfare recipients as criminals or victims, understand the importance of telling our stories from a position of strength, resistance, and solidarity. And so, the POWER Hour Radio Project was born.

POWER Hour Radio Project is one of many things we're working on to bring attention to the stories we hear daily at our organization and in our community. The stories from our membership are about their experiences as welfare recipients. These stories exemplify solidarity between people of all races, genders, sexual orientation, marital status, spiritual beliefs, and countries of origin, as people share similar struggles within an oppressive economic system. Our radio show aims to challenge stereotypes about who is poor and why, directly confronting misinformation and internalized oppression.

It has been a dream of POWER to have a radio show for quite some time and during the past year we've seen enormous growth on the project. With support from from student interns at The Evergreen State College, we've produced one show that has aired locally on Free Radio Olympia (98.5 FM). We've recorded loads more material and are in the process of editing our audio into finished shows to start airing twice a month.

This radio project supplies our community with ready material to present to policy makers, bringing to life how policies affect real people. With so many demands on low-income parents' lives, they cannot always personally present their story, and the recording of testimony allows us to build a stronger foundation of resistance. It also allows anonymity for people who want to tell their story but aren't ready to face the backlash of outing themselves as welfare recipients to their community.

During the show, we want to provide the opportunity for folks to call in and ask us questions about their rights at DSHS. This will help listeners in similar situations, or those with no experience, learn that navigating the welfare system is difficult for everyone, but that legal rights are attainable.

POWER members have long recognized that while our community is poor in physical resources, we are culturally rich. Our members speak a variety of languages, come from many countries, cultural backgrounds, and musical and oral traditions, and find it incredibly

empowering to share our experiences through spoken word and music. Another goal of the show is to include music and poetry to more richly reach the hearts and minds of our listeners.

The Radio Project is looking for community support! We are looking for folks with experience in audio production and recording to lend expertise to our project, as well as anyone who wants to tell their story.

Interested in volunteering? Your voice can be heard through this project, in a very literal way! If you live in Olympia, we hold volunteer meetings every Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 at our office downtown at 7th and Franklin in the Payne Room of the First Christian Church. If that time doesn't work for you, or you live in another area, but still want to organize for welfare and economic rights, contact us: 360-352-9716 or toll free at 1-866-343-9716 welfare-rights@riseup.net

Komachin Middle School

Brian Fligner, YIS AmeriCorps CCBLA Tutor Coordinator



Brian working hard at Harmony Hill Retreat Center for a CCBLA Action Day

For the past several weeks I've been volunteering in a science classroom at Komachin Middle School. It's great. I love to see how different schools approach the task of maintaining order among large groups of youngsters; how they guide students, and keep them safe without crushing their creativity, curiosity, or individuality.

This becomes more important at the middle school level as students are beginning to quest out on their own, experimenting to find their identities. The atmosphere at Komachin is well-tailored to this difficult part of life. The school seems to understand the struggle for identity that burdens its students. During my second or third visit I noticed a large placard across from my classroom's entrance. It read: "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science." ~Albert Einstein

Students in room 207 see this quote every time they leave the classroom. It continually reinforces one of the ideas I value most; that education is about nurturing curiosity, guiding students toward internal and external discovery, and fostering a sense of wonder. In my time working in small groups with Komachin's students, I can see the genuine affection for learning that should be the goal of educators. The students are mostly curious, good-natured citizens who've been able to see how their education applies outside the classroom. Komachin has made itself a place where young people can pursue their identities and learn to be better human beings. My short time there has been a fantastic learning experience and know it only gets better.

YAYA– Youth and Young Adult Network of National Farm Worker Ministry

Jenny Lee, YAYA Coordinator



Krissy and Jenny visit the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center in Cornelious Oregon- a medical facility that serves the migrant population where they will be taking the bikes collected

YAYA is a national network of young people actively working to change the oppressive social, political and economic conditions of farm workers. YAYAs support national and local campaigns led by farm workers organizing to improve the oppressive and dangerous conditions they live and work under. We do this because the majority of the fruits and vegetables we consume are planted, cultivated, and harvested by hand. Agricultural labor is one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States. Workers are exposed to toxic pesticides that cause rashes, illness, and birth defects, while working long hours for very little pay. Every year farm workers die of from heat poisoning and dehydration in the fields.

As a new student group at Evergreen, our YAYA chapter has spent the winter collecting and fixing bicycles that we will be giving to workers in Cornelius, OR. This bicycle drive has practical and political motivations behind it. Reliable transportation is a large concern for farm workers, many of whom are undocumented and under current racist legislation in most states cannot obtain drivers licenses. Driving or riding in cars can be very dangerous for these workers because they are living under constant threat of ICE raids and deportation. Bikes also give workers mobility and the freedom to go where they need when they need to go. In many cases, when workers need rides to the store they have to pay their crew leader money for a ride. Crew leaders may ask one person for \$5, a small profit margin if you don't stop to consider that there could be 12 people riding in a van and they have all paid this person \$5. A lot of farm workers walk great distances to avoid spending what little extra money they earn on rides. With a bicycle, a 2 hour walk becomes a 20 minute ride.

For 2010 Farm Worker Awareness Week, we co-sponsored a panel on farm worker justice with the CCBLA, Labor Center, and academic programs; Community-Based Research, Life of Things, and Cultural Landscapes. Panelists represented Bridges Not Walls and Inmigrantes Unidos de Shelton, as well as two fired union organizers who spoke about the crisis at Ruby Ridge Dairy in Eastern Washington.

In the fall we hope to host a seasonal training for Mason County Literacy's ESL program. This will take place on campus and students will have the opportunity to be trained and volunteer as a tutor for someone who is learning to speak English. We are looking for-

ward this collaboration and constantly seeking out further opportunities to work with the immigrant and immigrant ally communities in Olympia.

To learn more about farm worker issues you can visit www.nfwm.org. If you would like to be a part of YAYA, donate a bike, would like more information or to volunteer you can email us at wawa-yaya@hotmail.com.

Day of Absence/Day of Presence Collaborations

Andrea Robbins, Community Partnership Catalyst

This year, Day of Absence Day of Presence will have a new twist from the Center for Community Based Learning and Action. The CCBLA is bringing Bridges Not Walls to provide a workshop on Day of Absence to expand an understanding of ally community-based engagement. In other words, students will participate in a workshop about engaging with communities that they themselves do not identify with. During May and June, we will be organizing two separate Action Days where students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of ally community-based engagement.

Each Action Day will happen at multiple sites some of which include, Books to Prisoners, Stonewall Youth, and Evergreen Elementary, a dual language school in Shelton.

In the past the CCBLA has organized multi-site Action Days, which took place on Day of Absence as a way to address allyship. This year the Action Days will be happening throughout the following months in order to provide ways for students to carry the theories of anti-oppression work and allyship that they learn at DOA/DOP workshops into real world settings.



SAVE THE DATE!

Dialogue for Democracy Event

@ Clark College
Vancouver, WA

Friday, May 14th, 2010
10:00am–1:30pm

Penguin Union Building, room 258-C
For more information contact:
Jody Shulnak 360.992.2447



Center for Community-Based Learning and Action

