

THE ENGAGED CAMPUS

The Evergreen State College Center for Community Based Learning and Action Public Service Center Annual Report: 2006-7

Ellen Shortt Sanchez, Director

“A Place for the Community to Engage” Jacinta McKoy, Center Visionary

Where is the Center today?

Our Mission: According to The DTF report (1997-1999) “*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*”.

Building Capacity to best meet these Goals:

At the close of its third year, The Center for Community Based Learning and Action is staffed by a half time director. The Center has hosted two Americorps members through VISTA and Retention projects (focused with Gateways for Incarcerated Youth). .

STUDENT MOBILIZATION:

- Washington Campus Compact has funded a student position to coordinate Students in Action tuition award program.
- Throughout 2006-7 the Center hired four work study students as liaisons at community organizations (Bread and Roses, Gleaners, Cielo, Welfare Rights) and a liaison with housing Community Action House.
- The Center oversaw the final year of HECB funded Olympia Evergreen Tutor Collaborative placing 13 work study tutors in four high poverty Title 1 elementary schools.
- The Center hosted Community to Community Orientation week service project in September 2006 and monthly Action (service days) through out 2006-7 at community sites.
- The Center worked with Student Activity groups to engage them in Action days and offer support to link their work to community needs and activities.
- Students referred by their academic programs to do hands-on community work came to the center for project planning consultation.
- Tutors and Community Liaison student workers were offered monthly workshops at the center to train and reflect on their service and work experience.

FACULTY and STAFF CONSULATION:

- Center director presented and participated at Fall 2006 Convocation and Faculty Retreat and curriculum planning, faculty meetings and planning unit meetings through out 2006-7.
- Faculty teams joined center staff for planning specific program connections to community based learning
- Faculty summer institutes 2006- 2007 attended by center director included From Local to Global Citizenship (2006), First Year Colloquium. First Year Cohorts and upcoming Sustainability and Justice (2007).

- Academic Programs invited the Center to talk about Community Based Learning.
- Faculty joined community members to begin the Center for Community Based Learning and Action Advisory Committee meeting quarterly.
- Working connections with Student Employment, Financial aid, Career Development and Advising offices on campus have begun important discussions about the vision and structure for community based learning on campus.
- The Center participated in Quarterly Academic fairs and Freshman Advising day Academic Fair and annual Internship Fair and collaborated with Housing to organize the first Bridging Communities Gala event.
- College relations supported the Center to improve its brochure and produce its first quarterly newsletter and to promote local press releases.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

- Community Partner Catalyst Americorps Vista position has worked hard to outreach and build partnerships and connected to 10 new organizations from January to June. (included in list of partners below) Partnerships with Food Justice, Homeless, Anti-Poverty, and Immigrant Rights groups align with student faculty interest and local community needs.
- Students in Action – Site supervisors
- Panza Board. The Center participates on Faith and community based advisory board for Camp Quixote to make campus community connections around homeless issues.
- Gateways for Incarcerated Youth is housed at the center and brings connections around issues of Juvenile justice and prison education and rehabilitation.
- Focus The Nation. Center director is a steering committee member to plan and connect community partners for nationally coordinated campus events around climate change.

The History:

In March 2007, The Center (CCBLA) completed its 3rd year in existence. In September 2006 Ellen Shortt Sanchez took the reigns after Sylvie McGee spent two years building a strong foundation of campus community connections. At that time the Center moved under the provosts office and became an Evergreen Public Service Center.

According to Academic Dean Russ Fox, a visionary founder of the Center, *“The original Service Learning DTF report adopted unanimously by faculty relied primarily on the pedagogical value and need for a Center to support students and faculty community based work in Academic”*.

From a number of previous on campus incarnations the center has grown to an established fixture on campus and is positioned to grow and build capacity to support community- campus connections.

Student-Community Engagement: The Numbers. CCBLA has supported student engagement since it was founded two years ago. By working with community groups and organizations, student groups, Community Action House, academic programs, and individual students’ learning goals the center has mobilized a lot of community

involvement. This community involvement is the cornerstone of Community-Based learning. Community work with the Center this year has totaled over 20,000 hours!

Venue	Number of Student Participants	Hours of Student Engagement
Students in Action, Americorps Program	54	15674
Tutor Project Tutors	14	1878
Student Ambassadors, In Community Work-Study	9	2190

Total **77** **19742**

Another way that the CCBLA contributes to community initiatives is by sponsoring Action Days in community in collaboration with various community partners. This year action days occurred every month. This is a program we hope to expand during the next couple of years. Participation from Academic programs made significant contributions.

Action Days 06-07

Event	Volunteer #	Hours	Sites
Community to Community	68	483	3
Chehalis River Day	10	80	1
Left Foot Organics	6	34	1
Quixote Move	12	17	1
Co-Op cleanup	6	8.5	1
Fern Haven Retreat Center			
Harmony Hill			
Sunrise Park Gardens- Grub			
Totals	102	622.5	7

Community Organizations: The Center worked with a variety of community organizations over the course of the year. The focus of each organization is a different as the organizations themselves, from fighting hunger to building homes our community partners provide the expertise that engage students and faculty alike. *Insert List here*

Community Organization	Issue
Habitat For Humanity – Olympia	
Gleaners Coalition	
Lincoln Elementary Gardens	
Chehalis River ---	
Left Foot Organics	

<p> Camp Quixote Olympia Food Co-op Harmony Hill Retreat Center Fern Haven Retreat Center Grub (Garden Raised Urban Bounty) Community Youth Services Bread and Roses Welfare Advocacy Olympia Project Cielo Inmigrantes Unidos de Shelton The Jefferson Center United Way of Thurston County Behavioral Health Resources Choice Regional Health Network Youth YODA Mason County Literacy Shelton Even Start Garfield, Hansen, Roosevelt, Madison Elementary Schools Evergreen Elementary -Dual Language Coalition for Low Income Power Youth in Service Americorps- MLKday </p>	
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FUTURE:

- Director increases to three quarters time Sept. 2007
- Half Time faculty contract sponsor housed at Center 2007-8
- Additional CYS Americorps placed at Center.
- Newly funded Student Community Action Coordinators work study project implemented 2007-8.
- Beginning the Journey and First Year Experience Community Based Learning support.
- Community Needs assessment for student engagement
- Investigation of funds to support community partners in classroom.
- Continued working group with Advising, Student Employment, Career Development to facilitate community connections and internship processes.