

THE EVERGREEN FUND

Your donations in action | 2024-2025

Washington Monthly just ranked Evergreen in the top 25 of *America's Best Colleges for Your Tuition (and Tax) Dollars*. August 2025



Evergreen by the numbers Fall 2024

Enrolled students	2,505
First-generation	20%
Students of color	37%
Low-income	32%

Your gifts to the Evergreen Fund open doors for students to thrive. Because of you, students can access scholarships that pave the way to graduation, research fellowships that spark curiosity, emergency funding to weather life's unexpected challenges, and opportunities to study abroad. You enable the college to meet immediate needs and long-term strategic goals. Thank you for sustaining the interdisciplinary, real-world learning experiences that only Evergreen can offer!

Jasmin's deep Tacoma roots

This June, Jasmin De'Armond graduated as a 'double Greener.' After earning her undergraduate degree at Evergreen Tacoma in 2022, she returned to complete her Masters of Public Administration with an emphasis in Community Advocacy and Leadership.

Jasmin and her four sons are all proudly born and raised in the Tacoma Hilltop neighborhood, only blocks from Evergreen Tacoma. While attending a college fair, Jasmin's passion for coming to Evergreen Tacoma was ignited by hearing Dr. Gilda Shepherd speak. "Her words were so powerful, they entered my ears, touched my heart, and led me right to her classroom," says Jasmin.

With a background as a Peer Counselor for community organizations, Jasmin was interested in building her public service skills. While at Evergreen Tacoma, scholarships helped her dive into studying community

organizing, leadership strategy, and public policy. "My passion lies in advocating and ensuring everyone has access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed," explains Jasmin.

Scholarships also helped Jasmin serve as the Communications Liaison for the Geoduck Student Union and as a member of the Tacoma Student Activities Board. In these roles, she focused on making sure students were informed, empowered, and included in decisions related to campus funding, events, and special initiatives. "I love that at Evergreen I was able to use my lived experience and apply my leadership skills to have an impact on supporting students," she says.

Today, Jasmin is excited to use her Evergreen education to improve and serve her Hilltop community. Even closer to her heart, her journey is carried forward by one of her sons, who is currently attending Evergreen Olympia.

Evergreen Tacoma Fund 2024-2025 Impact

# of scholarships awarded	19
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"Because of Evergreen, and those who invest in students like me, I'm not just earning degrees. I'm changing futures."



Jasmin De'Armond '22 and MPA '25 with her son, Rome Smith, at the Master of Public Administration Hooding Ceremony, 2025.

THE EVERGREEN FUND:

The Evergreen Scholarship Fund



Evergreen Scholarship Fund 2024-2025 Impact	
# of scholarships awarded	196
Value awarded	\$378,678

The Evergreen Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to students at Evergreen's Olympia and Tacoma campuses, as well as the Native Pathways Program. Many scholarships are renewable and increase as students get closer to graduation.

Maddox connects past and present

Maddox Lightning '25 can trace her family lineage back 15 generations to ancestors within the Mbya Guarani community, an indigenous peoples whose art and language have existed across South America for thousands of years. As a natural storyteller, she is using her personal history and educational journey to share Mbya culture and history.

Maddox discovered that hundreds of years ago, one of her ancestors was the first Native South Americans taken on a boat to what is now France. Many generations later, descendants of his returned to the Americas and branched out north and south.

Learning about her lineage supercharged

Maddox's interests in Anthropology, Indigenous Studies, and Creative Writing. She came to Evergreen for a chance to weave her coursework together across these disciplines. At Evergreen, she found her professors to be as passionate as she was. "I had instructors who encouraged me to dream big," says Maddox. They helped her build Independent Learning Contracts (ILCs) that enabled her to earn her degree while studying directly with members of the Mbya Guarani community.

For two years in a row, Maddox also received scholarships fueled by the Evergreen Scholarship Fund to visit her ancestral home on the island of Sao Francisco do Sul in south eastern Brazil. She was

able to connect with family relatives and begin working with Mbya Guarani elders on linguistics projects to help preserve their endangered language.

In June 2025, Maddox earned her Bachelors degree and graduated from Evergreen. As she heads into the future, Maddox says, "I want to bring good medicine to the world." She hopes her continued work will help the Mbya Guarani sustain their oral history and maintain their cultural traditions.

With scholarship support, Maddox Lightning '25 will help preserve important cultural traditions.



"I had the opportunity to learn from elders, and to travel to my ancient ancestors' homeland in Brazil. I cannot tell you the degree to which this has and will impact my life and others."

Being there for Rosie

Rosie Alfaro-Toledo '25 chose Evergreen on the recommendation of a friend who told her the college was a good fit for non-traditional students whose education had been interrupted. From the moment she walked onto Evergreen's Tacoma campus, she knew it was true. "I felt welcomed and, most of all, believed in," says Rosie.

Rosie was able to dive into her studies and focus on her interests in child education and holistic family support systems. In particular, she has been inspired by the teachings and legacy of powerful Black women like Dr. Gilda Sheppard and Dr. Maxine Mimms and she has leaned into the Tacoma campus emphasis on self-reflection and service back to the

community. She promotes mental health advocacy through the Holding Hope podcast and supports multilingual access for families across Washington through her work with Child Care Aware of WA.

On the Tacoma campus, she served on the Tacoma Student Activities Board and helped secure major increases in student funding. She also helped support emerging student clubs and community events and in spring 2025, she curated a student-led art show called Woven by Nature, *Altered by Us*.

All of this was made possible thanks to the Evergreen Tacoma Fund scholarship and the Student Emergency Fund. When life threw

challenges at Rosie, such as job loss, the emergency fund stepped in to make sure she could stay in school. "These scholarships were more than just money," says Rosie, "They were a lifeline. These scholarships kept me in school and gave me the stability I needed to continue."

Today, Rosie is hopeful about her education and career goals. She plans to earn her master's, then pursue a PhD in support of early learning systems across Washington. "I want to build a system that centers community, culture, and care," says Rosie. "My education at Evergreen has given me the tools, the confidence, and the community to make that dream possible."

"Evergreen supported me through some of the biggest moments of my life—illness, becoming a mother, navigating economic hardship—and never once asked me to choose between being a student and being a human."



The Student Emergency Fund was founded in 2015 by Evergreen parents. The fund distributes micro-grants to students, like Rosie Alfaro-Toledo '25, who may face urgent expenses that could stand in the way of their studies.

215

Students received micro-grants from the Student Emergency Fund in 2025.

\$545

Average award per student in 2025.

\$156,332

in emergency aid distributed in 2025.



Liberation through learning

Evergreen is bringing its unique model into Washington State prisons to remove obstacles for incarcerated students who are ready and eager to reimagine their futures.

With approvals from the Washington State Department of Corrections, the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities, and Evergreen's Board of Trustees, the Evergreen Prison Education Program (EPEP) began offering bachelor's degrees courses at Stafford Creek in Winter quarter 2024.

Through EPEP, students can expand their minds through a rigorous curriculum focused on critical thinking and scholarly agency. In Winter 2025, students explored the theme of "Utopia" from social science and humanities perspectives. They also participated in physics labs so they could study pendulums and other forms of "order and chaos."

However, although Evergreen was able to offer degrees at Stafford Creek, EPEP still had to wait for Pell Grant approval from the Department of Education. During this time,

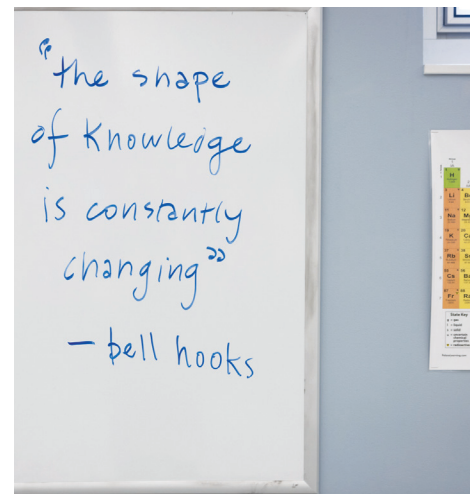
donors like you showed up so that Evergreen students at Stafford Creek could begin their educational journey.

Throughout 2024-25 tuition, fees, books and supplies were covered by a combination of tuition waivers from the College and scholarships made possible through your Evergreen Fund donations.

Benjamin Brockie, a recent EPEP student, was able to explore critical readings, including bell hooks' book, *Teaching to Transgress*. "bell hooks said, 'The academy is not paradise. But learning is a place where paradise can be created'," recalls Benjamin. "In my two-plus decades of incarceration, learning never felt like a 'paradise' but EPEP turned into a reprieve from my everyday life. Going to school felt like I was truly in a higher education setting. My freedom as a student, individual, and member of community was never compromised by the razor-wired fences that surrounded me."

Now, thanks to your support, even more students like Benjamin can

experience EPEP. In May 2025, students at Stafford Creek became eligible for Pell Grants and Evergreen admitted a new learning cohort for the 2025-2026 academic year.



As part of the Evergreen Prison Education Program, participants read bell hooks' book, *'Teaching to Transgress.'*

EPEP builds on a foundation of liberation education at Evergreen including Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, the Sustainability in Prisons Project, and Liberation Scholars, as well as a wide range of endeavors by staff and faculty at the Olympia and Tacoma campuses, and beyond.

Summer fieldwork

Each summer, gifts to the Evergreen Fund enable students to take part in Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF). Through SURF, students immerse themselves in fieldwork alongside faculty advisors to gain hands-on experience for future careers and advanced study. Here are some of the projects students and faculty worked on this past summer:

- 45 years of vegetation recovery post the eruption of Mount St. Helens
- Tracking rare and endangered lichens in Washington state
- Monitoring birds in the Olympia campus forest
- Creating wearable art that explores the connection between natural patterns and human behavior

Learn more at:
evergreen.edu/academics/academic-grants/summer-undergraduate-research-fellowships

Unrestricted gifts ensure The Evergreen State College Foundation can stay nimble and responsive to critical demands on campus and within our community. You can feel good knowing that your investments go where they are needed most.

Gifts to the Evergreen Fund support:

Scholarships
Student emergency fund grants
Study abroad
Faculty development
Undergraduate research
Graduate program scholarships
...and so much more.

Like what you see or have questions?

Connect with us:

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