

Community service is the start of class for Evergreen students



GRuB farm manager Justin Umholtz (left) works Wednesday with Tillman Clark (center), 22, and other Evergreen State College students to clear sunflowers from the GRuB garden

for composting as part of Community Action Day. Students help out on community projects for a day as part of Community Action Day, which is part of Evergreen's student orientation.

Toni L. Bailey/The Olympian

'It's a commitment to helping in a new community,' school official says

BY HEATHER WOODWARD
THE OLYMPIAN

ONLINE

To find out more about the Center for Community-Based Learning and Action at The Evergreen State College, click the link with this story at www.theolympian.com/southsound.

Alanna Knudsen, 18, remembers looking up to the students from The Evergreen State College who came to work in Lincoln Elementary School's garden when she was a second- and third-grader there.

Now, she's one of them.

Knudsen was one of about 200 new Evergreen students who participated Wednesday in community-service projects throughout South Sound as part of their orientation.

"It's fun to be one of those kids," said Knudsen, who helped with weeding in Lincoln's garden.

The projects are part of an annual Evergreen effort to cement the connection



Knudsen

between the college and area community-service groups through the school's new Center for Community-Based Learning and Action.

This year, students helped out with projects at 13 sites, including the Deschutes River, Garden-Raised Bounty (GRuB), the Olympia Food Co-op, the Garfield Nature Trail and a Mason County Habitat for Humanity project.

"It's really exhilarating to watch the process of students signing up and getting to know their new community," said Ellen

Shortt Sanchez, the Evergreen center's director. "It's a commitment to helping in a new community as new people in the area."

Cameron Morris, 18, is an Evergreen freshman from Issaquah who says community service is a value to which he hopes to devote his life.

He lives in a community service dorm at Evergreen that requires residents to perform eight hours of service every month.

"I want to help people," Morris said, explaining why he was excited about Wednesday's projects. "The world is a lot bigger than me, and I want to do something to put some positive feedback into it."

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BY ADAM
THE OLYMPIAN

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