

10/88

Draft Role/Mission Statement



Archives

The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington 98505

In the 1970's we created and developed a non-traditional, liberal arts college that responded to one of the legislature's original mandates - to help prepare citizens to participate in our quickly changing society. We founded our college on the following ideas: 1) Collaborative, inter-disciplinary teaching and learning 2) Small classes and close interaction among students and faculty who work together full-time for a quarter or longer 3) Studies organized around problems and themes of contemporary significance 4) Individual projects which encourage the development of theoretical understanding and practical skills 5) Regular evaluation conferences between faculty and students and formal, written, narrative evaluations by faculty and students at the end of each course 6) Regular self-evaluation by faculty and students.

During the past ten years, the faculty has made and taught a successful, interdisciplinary curriculum. As part of their work, they have completed important research and community service projects. Many students who have graduated from Evergreen have become articulate, highly competent, problem solvers. And they work well with people of different values and backgrounds.

During the 1980's we want to continue to develop our college according to our founding ideas. And we want to continue to do what we have learned to do well. For example, we want to continue to: 1) Promote good spirited, cooperative work between students and between students and faculty 2) Combine theoretical learning with its applications 3) Design the content and form of curriculum to fit the needs of radically different groups of students 4) Help academically

ill-prepared students to do college level, academic work and help all students to read, write and speak more clearly about difficult issues 5) Develop student's ability to define and solve problems.

In addition, we want to focus more of our attention on a second part of the original mandate of the legislature - to serve as the regional university/college for southwest Washington and to provide services to state government and its employees. We propose to respond to this second part of the mandate by: 1) Continuously surveying the educational needs of a diverse range of high school students, older citizens and state workers 2) Expanding the quantity and quality of our outreach programs, learning activity centers, and part time options 3) Making additional full-time, undergraduate curriculum concerned explicitly with current social, political and economic problems of this area 4) Introducing our graduate program in environmental studies and developing and expanding our graduate program in public administration.

Our goal for the 1980's is to find even better way to use the founding ideas and the current resources of our college to help people learn to think, work and live well now and later.