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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
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EVERGREEN NEW CAREERS PROGRAM
MAY BE MODEL FOR OTHER COLLEGES

The federally financed New Careers program being pioneered at The Evergreen State College, Olympia, may become a model for other colleges and universities to follow, John Finley, Dean of Developmental Services, said today.

"Last November Evergreen became the first four-year college in the nation to participate as an employer in the New Careers program," Finley said. "Already, several other colleges have indicated an interest in following suit. We are hopeful that we can contribute to the success of this important endeavor at other institutions."

Evergreen, Washington's newest college, has eight New Careerists receiving on-the-job training. After successful completion of two years of simultaneous formal academic and on-the-job experience, they will become regular college employees.

Washington three years ago became the first state to adopt the federal program on a statewide civil service basis. The U. S. Department of Labor sponsors the New Careers program, designed to improve the quality of public agencies' services in areas of human needs. Trainees were selected from among hundreds of economically disadvantaged applicants for their potential to reach professional levels of performance through intensive training.

Trainees spend three days per week on the job--in this case at Evergreen, otherwise in such participating agencies as the Department of Employment Security, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Department of Social and Health Services. The other two days are spent attending Western Washington State College extension classes in their respective home areas.

"Evergreen's New Careerists are being rotated through ten different training positions," Finley explained. "Next September each will settle into a permanent

assignment for the final year of inservice training."

Thus, he said, they will have an opportunity to develop an understanding of other facets of college operation before deciding on specific careers. They are receiving experience at Evergreen in the areas of media production, library reference, library acquisitions, media acquisitions, library systems, counseling, admissions, college relations, personnel and campus services.

"Some have been given responsibility for special projects," Finley said, "including development of a minority recruitment directory and gathering data on experimental housing."

He emphasized that the new careerists are performing valuable services in preparation for the arrival next fall of Evergreen's first 1,000 students. Their contribution will be even more important during the college's first year of operation.

"This is all being accomplished at a substantial saving to the college and the state," he stressed. "The federal government is reimbursing the college for the trainees' entire salaries during the first year and half for the second year."

The government also pays the cost of the formal education phase of the New Careers program, he added.

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