



Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

SPRING 2007

Spring 2007 Service Learning Student Survey Results

In spring 2007 CSUCI students were surveyed on various aspects of their service learning experiences and community contributions. Survey results showed:

- **178+** CSUCI students participated in a course with a service learning component.
- **2,774** hours were served by CSUCI students.
- **\$56,479** of economic benefit was contributed to Ventura County (based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics value of volunteer time \$20.36/hour for California).
- **14** courses with a service learning component were offered in Spring 07. Courses included: Accounting, Education, English, Environmental Science and Resource Management, Gender Studies, Liberal Studies, and Sociology.
- **20** freshmen, **22** sophomores, **61** juniors and **71** seniors participated in courses with a service learning component.
- **96%** of students strongly agreed or agreed that they learn course content better when it is connected to “real world” experiences.
- **94%** of students strongly agreed or agreed that service learning enhanced their understanding of course content.
- **88%** of the students reported that the community partner agency had contributed to their course learning.



ESRM 100 students work on a fencing project at Ormond Beach.

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To read a full copy of the report please go to our website at www.csuci.edu/servicelearning

President Rush Underlines The Importance of Service Learning

In February 07, President Richard Rush attended the winter meeting, of the Board of Directors for National and Community Service in Washington D.C., whose goal is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

President Rush serves as chairman of California Campus Compact, which is part of a national organization of college and university presidents dedicated to advancing the public purpose of colleges and universities by educating their students for responsible citizenship. .

In the meeting President Rush discussed the university's commitment to service and service-learning. Underlining the importance of service-learning to the more than 1,000 member colleges of Campus Compact, he noted that 98 percent of the members offer service-learning in the curricula and that 1.9 million students performed service on member campuses in 2006.

Also announced at the meeting was the launch of a new web portal geared at colleges and universities. The web page on www.nationalservice.gov provides links and information to help higher education institutions further their civic mission including training resources, research, student recognition opportunities, and grant information.

Campus and Community Celebrates Cesar Chavez Day of Service Learning

The Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement, in co-sponsorship with many campus and community organizations, hosted a week-long celebration in honor of Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning.

Central to this celebration was a traveling oral history exhibit featuring a service learning project that captured the oral histories of several families who recently moved into the Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments. This service learning project was the collaborative work of CSUCI faculty members, Beth Hartung, Renny Christopher and Antonio Jimenez, their students and community partner, Cabrillo Economic Development.

The establishment of the Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments resulted from a 1996 civil rights case, represented by Oxnard lawyer Barbara Macri-Ortiz, involving evicted Ventura County farm workers and substandard housing.

Throughout the week long celebration the exhibit was on display at the Café on A/Acuna Art Gallery, on the campus of CSUCI, and at the Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments in Oxnard.

Ms. Macri-Ortiz was recognized at one of the events, by

Congresswoman Lois Capps, Assemblyman Pedro Nava, Mayor Dr. Tom Holden of Oxnard, and the University, for her tireless work and efforts to further the rights of the farmworker community and for her significant role in partnering with CSUCI to gift the historical court records to the university.

These court records will continue to provide CSUCI students with many extraordinary academic learning opportunities about ethics, civil rights, and the most disenfranchised populations of Ventura County.



This campus-community event allowed the University, community members, students and faculty to come together to promote educational opportunities and Chavez's core values of : community, *knowledge*, *determination*, *service to others*, as well as Chavez's dream for a better life for the underserved and disenfranchised in our society.

La Manzanilla: Mexican Mangroves and Wildlife

During Spring Break '07 students enrolled in Professor Don Rodriguez's and Brad Monsma's University 392: Mexican Mangroves and Wildlife Experience/Service Learning course, traveled to a field research station based in La Manzanilla, Mexico to learn about issues facing Mexican conservation.

Due to the rise in tourism La Manzanilla, a small fishing community, has begun to experience the ecological and economic impacts that come with being "discovered." This "discovery" has caused environmental changes to the surrounding area that includes: habitat encroachment, threatened mangrove systems and the biotic health of this ecosystem.

Working closely with staff and researchers from the Great Basin Institute, the University of Nevada, Reno, and Earthwatch, a non-profit organization offering volunteer research opportunities around the world, CSUCI students participated in community based research projects such as baseline inventorying, Geographic Information System mapping, restoration design, implementation, and monitoring and hydrologic monitoring.

Working among the roots of the mangroves forests students also conducted bird counts and snorkeled near the coral reef to sample marine invertebrates. Data that was collected by CSUCI students will be used to inform local restoration and educational initiatives.

This international service learning opportunity provided CSUCI students with "hands-on" experience as they learned from lecturers involved in a variety of coastal and interior conservation studies. In addition, this course allowed students to experience relationships between core facets of CSUCI's mission: interdisciplinary, international and multicultural, and experiential and service learning.



Photo by CSUCI student Nathan Moffett

Spotlight on Service: CSUCI Student Nominated For Humanitarian Award



Congratulations to CSUCI senior Kyle Morford who has been selected as the California finalist for Campus Compact's Howard R. Shearer Student Humanitarian Award.

In Kyle's words, "Upward mobility of the orphans is our goal throughout this entire journey in Rwanda. If we can keep educating the children, then their chances of surviving and leading a better life increases several times that of a non-educated orphan in Rwanda. Being a global citizen is everyone's responsibility and with a little effort, we can all make a difference."

Kyle Morford, a liberal studies/international affairs major, has an impressive history of public service. He has aided a team of medical personnel working with the poor in Guatemala, helped out in a food kitchen and relief camp in post-Katrina New Orleans and organized a Red Cross Club on campus while working as a Red Cross Shelter Manager.

Each year since 1987, Campus Compact, a nationwide coalition of college and university presidents committed to fulfilling the public purposes of higher education of which President Richard Rush is a member of their Board of Directors, are invited to nominate one student for this prestigious award. Kyle's nomination now moves to the national level. The national award recognizes five students, bestowing \$1,500 to each student for their innovative strategies in addressing community issues and needs and their efforts to build and sustain this work among their peers and within their institution.

Most recently, in partnership with Kigali Rotaract of Rwanda, Kyle and the CSUCI Rotaract Club are working together to bring electricity to 22 homes of orphans in the Dahumuri-zanye Association-Kimironko orphanage. After school even the youngest of these children work until dark and electricity will allow them to study in the evenings.

We congratulate and wish Kyle the best of luck!

Names in the News

In Spring '07 Associate Professor of Management **Andrew Morris** from the Martin V. Smith School of Business and Economics served on a panel with other business, civic, and educational leaders from California to help evaluate the quality of service projects completed by high school SAGE teams throughout California. SAGE stands for Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship and its mission is to advance entrepreneurship education and community service-learning around the world, emphasizing ethical business practices, social responsibility, civic engagement and environmental awareness.

Congratulations to ESRM Program Chair, **Donald Rodriguez**, Community Partner, University Preparation School **Charmon Evans** and CSUCI student **Ashley Dodson**. Each were recognized by the OSL-CE for their outstanding service and leadership to CSUCI and the community.

Congratulations to Associate Professors **Trudy Milburn** and **Andrea Grove** for being named the new faculty co-directors of the Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning. We look forward to working with them in AY 07-08.



Podcast Now Available On The Service Learning Webpage

We recently added a podcast to the News and Events link on our service learning webpage. Our first podcast features an excerpt from Professor Frank Barajas' presentation, "**Cesar Chavez's Early Connection to Ventura County.**" Frank Barajas, Associate Professor of History, illustrated his talk with photos documenting the ethnic evolution of migrant labor and speaks of Chavez' arrival from Arizona to Oxnard's La Colonia and his unrelenting crusade for farmworker's rights. Dr. Barajas' podcast and our website can be accessed at http://www.csuci.edu/servicelearning/News_and_Events.htm.

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Submit Your Stories

We welcome and encourage faculty and community partners to submit stories of your recent accomplishments, and information about upcoming events and opportunities. If you would like to be included in future newsletters, please submit your information pilar.pacheco@csuci.edu or call Pilar Pacheco at (805) 437.8851.

“Students must have initiative; they should not be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves and be free.”

– Cesar E. Chavez