



Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement

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IN THIS ISSUE

- **CSUCI Service Learning Students Impact on Ventura County**
- **Service Learning Project Highlights Legal Plight of Ventura County Farm workers**
- **Service Learning Project Inspires Creativity and College Dreams**
- **Service Learning Minigrants Awarded**
- **Spotlight on Service**
- **Service Learning Faculty Present at Conferences**
- **Service Learning Resources**

What Service Learning Looks Like at CSUCI

More and more CSUCI students are out in the community linking their service learning projects with community identified needs. During the 2005-2006 academic year **431 CSUCI students provided approximately 7075 hours of service** to support service learning experiences and educate themselves about important social, environmental, educational and economic issues in the community. This effort translates to **\$139,660.50* invested in the community**. Below are two samples of service learning projects that took place in 2005-2006.

** Calculated using the value of volunteer time, as reported by Independent Sector, \$19.74 times the number of service hours.*

Environmental Science Resource Management

463: Water Resource Management Professor Don Rodriguez's students contributed to a water quality monitoring project on the Revolon Slough within the Calleguas watershed. The watershed ranks as one of the most impaired in the state of California. Students worked in teams to learn about regional water issues, and collect and monitor water samples from this watershed which has never been done. Water samples were analyzed and used to inform a final report sent to the Hansen Trust.

Sociology 332: Narratives of the Working:

Students in Professors Renny Christopher's and Beth Hartung's class experienced ethnographic interviewing of individuals who recently moved into farmworker and affordable housing units supported by Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation. CSUCI students studied a selection of narratives about the working poor and working class to better understand the diverse perspectives and issues impacting persons engaged in the economic struggle, such as, housing affordability and livable wage.

CSUCI Community Partners Serve as Co-educators

Are you thinking of incorporating service learning into your course? Our community partners are integral to the success of our service learning students and serve as co-educators to facilitate onsite learning and reflection. Below is a growing list of our current University community partnerships. To learn more about the mission and goals of our community partners please visit our website at www.csuci.edu/servicelearning/communitypartners.htm

- Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo, Port Hueme/Oxnard and Ventura
- Cabrillo Economic Development
- Café on A
- California Conservation Corp.
- Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)
- City Impact
- Pleasant Valley Neighborhood for Learning
- University Preparation School
- West Coast Environmental and Engineering
- Westminster Free Clinic

Is there a Community Based Organization with whom you would like to partner but is not listed above? Please contact the Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement (OSL/CE). We can assist by acting as a liaison for faculty and community partners to connect, and maintain ongoing communication throughout the semester.

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Service Learning Project Highlights Legal Plight of Farmworkers

CSUCI History Professor Frank Barajas and Oxnard lawyer and labor advocate Barbara Macri-Ortiz wanted to preserve legal papers that documented a farmworker civil rights case involving wrongfully evicted Ventura farmworkers from their homes, in 1996, after they raised questions to their landlord (and landowner) about the safety of their living conditions. Eventually six lawsuits, represented by Ms. Macri-Ortiz, lasting from 1996-2002, were brought against the landowner resulting in the creation of Villa Cesar Chavez, a 58 unit farm worker housing development on Hueneme Road that is now nearing completion of construction.

Court files documenting these proceedings and organized by pleadings, correspondence, notes, research, discovery, evidence, and appellate proceedings had historical value for the farm worker community in Ventura County, and were in need of a permanent depository. Together, Professor Barajas and Ms. Macri-Ortiz designed a Capstone project (History 492) that provided a service learning opportunity for two CSUCI stu-

dents who were interested in preserving the history of this case through an archiving project. The documents were transferred to the CSUCI library where the Capstone students, Shane Rucker and Diane McKenna spent spring 2006 sorting through files, and developing an archiving system, while preserving a piece of farmworker history.

This service learning project has now grown to include additional courses: English/Soc 331: Narratives of the Working Class, and Spanish 304: Spanish for Careers and Professionals. Students in both courses are documenting, translating and transcribing the oral histories of the residents of Villa Cesar Chavez. As part of course assignments/projects students are collecting oral histories from residents and documenting how their lives have changed as a result of the development of Villa Cesar Chavez housing project. These oral histories help to give voice representation to the Service Learning Archives Project in History 492.

Service Learning Project Inspires Creativity and College Dreams

By Claudia Reder PhD

Incorporating service learning into my Children's Literature course has helped to engage my students on several levels- they apply what they learned in the classroom and interact with children and teachers in the community. Students who have never worked with 4th-6th graders, or who have not worked with children in a school setting, are given the opportunity to do so.

This spring my students worked with 4th-6th graders at University Preparation School (UPS), a public charter school in Camarillo, to write poems together during after-school homework club time. Art activities designed by my students, using paint and clay, were utilized to help inspire UPS students to write their poems. Painting

and working with clay helps connect the young student to their feelings. That connection then helps them find the words for their poems. This process enables both my students and UPS students to experience creative writing and find the joys of language.

Through service learning, my students, most of whom plan to become teachers, have learned strategies for teaching and working with children. It has also deepened their appreciation for the teaching profession. In the beginning of the course many students were unsure how schools work, what qualities they had to offer, what children had to offer or the impact they would have on the children. I used group discussion as a way

to have students reflect on and analyze what they learned about this process and themselves. Many spoke about the self-confidence gained and the difference they felt they could make in a young student's life. For many it solidified their decision to become teachers.

The children at UPS also directly benefited from working with my students. CSUCI students are seen as role models and mentors by these children. Service learning has provided UPS children an opportunity to receive positive outside mentorship. For UPS students to interact with CSUCI students allows some children to think, one day I could go to CSUCI.

Faculty Service Learning Mini-Grants Awarded

Congratulations to all!!

- Professors Stacey Anderson, Richard Besone, Jose Moreno, and Claudia Reder were each awarded \$1,500.00 in Service Learning Curriculum Development Grants.

This summer Dr. Kathleen Rice, Service Learning Consultant to the OSL/CE will facilitate workshop sessions for the awardees that focus on service learning promising practices, building reciprocal community partnerships and developing reflection activities. In addition, awardees and community partners will come together to co-develop mutually beneficial service learning objectives.

Spotlight on Service



Parissa Keshavarzian embodies the characteristics of a CSUCI student. Involved and dedicated, Parissa, a

freshman taking 18 units (some pre-med courses), found time to be a Service Learner, contributing over 20 hours to the community, in conjunction with Professor Popok's English 103 Stretch Composition class.

During spring 2006 Parissa served at Westminster Free Clinic. While at the Clinic she developed and wrote a health

article, on the importance of nutrition, and worked alongside health care workers who provide medical services to the uninsured homeless and working poor of our community.

"The population I worked with was predominately Hispanic. I was able to develop an article that was culturally appropriate and that made me feel like I was contributing something to the community. I also got a chance to work with people that are in the field I will be going into."

Parissa is studying to be an Emergency Physician and was yearning for hands on experience in the community. Serving at the Clinic gave her the opportunity to incorporate her

writing skills gained in class as well as provide her with experiences that informed her class essays.

"Working at the clinic has been meaningful to me and has opened my eyes to some of the issues of our community."

Her personal philosophy of service is derived from the values instilled by her parents: "To be open-minded, respectful of others and open your heart to different people and situations.

Parissa plans to continue her service to the community by applying this spring to be a Summer Scholar at Ventura County Medical Center. "Working in the community will always be something that I will do. I feel it is important to give back."

Service Learning Faculty Present at CSU Conferences

Community-Based Teaching & Research

We are very proud to announce the inclusion of some of our Service Learning faculty at the First CSU Conference on Community Based Teaching and Research: *Creating Knowledge and Building Community*.

- Christine Popok
- John Guelcher
- Stacey Anderson
- Kathleen Klompfen
- Don Rodriguez

All presented their papers at the annual conference. The conference, held at Cal Poly Pomona on March 3-4, 2006, brought together CSU faculty, community partners and student research partners to learn how to integrate service learning and research, to discuss research methods and results, to build multi-campus and interdisciplinary collaborations, and to share lessons learned from challenges faced while working with communities in California.

CSU Symposium on University Teaching

Professors **Bob Bleicher** and **Manuel Correia** presented at the CSU Symposium on University Teaching at CSU Dominguez Hills on April 1, 2006. Co-presenting on, "Developing a Full Model Service Learning Course," Professors Bleicher and Correia presented findings on the effectiveness of EDUC 101 service learning course and project between Ocean View School District and CSUCI.

The aim of the project was to implement an early field experience for undergraduate liberal studies majors in a bilingual elementary school and develop a model for service learning specific to the needs of school and university.

Professor Bleicher and Correia reported working in student teams, called Classroom Tutors (CT) increased collegial support and resulted in increased confidence of students to both share their classroom experiences and to test new strategies of teaching. Reflection activities further improved CT's tutoring and elementary student learning. Elementary students verbal responses and written work further evidenced that CTs were making a difference to student learning.

Resources Available for Faculty Involved in Service

The OSL/CE serves as a resource and support center for faculty, community partners and students engaged in service learning. Here are just some of the resources and supports available to faculty.

To learn more about our resources please visit our website at <http://www.csuci.edu/servicelearning/aboutus.htm>

Community Partner Database

The OSL/CE maintains a database of community based agencies with Ventura County. We will negotiate a service learning contract, conduct site visits and prepare placement profiles to determine if Live Scan and/or TB tests are needed. We can also act as a liaison for faculty and community partners to connect, and maintain ongoing communication.

Student Orientations

The OSL/CE can provide staff to conduct orientations during class or at other pre-arranged times to introduce students to service learning concepts, methods and purpose. [Please contact our offices to schedule an appointment.](#)

A special thanks to our Spring 2006 Service Learning and Civic Engagement Faculty Liaisons:

Dr. Donald Rodriguez

Dr. Julia Balen

We appreciate all your contributions and dedication to our mission!

CSU Channel Islands

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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. You will be contacted once your message is received.

“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