



# Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement

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## The Value of CSUCI Student Service to the Ventura Community

CSU Channel Islands (CSUCI) is dedicated to providing students with experiential and service learning experiences. Service Learning links classroom learning to “real-life” experiences in the community.

At its best, Service Learning has been shown to improve student learning, address community needs, facilitate public debate and dialogue, and create a campus that partners with its community.

In spring 2005, CSUCI students were involved in an array of Service Learning courses that benefited not only our students but the community as well. Approximately 150 CSUCI students participated in Service Learning courses. This regional effort translates into 4,680 hours of service invested in the community. The economic impact on the community is \$31,590.

Service Learning is gaining momentum on the CSUCI campus. A growing number of faculty are incorporating Service Learning into their courses and the Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement (OSL/CE) has partnered with many community organizations

To learn more about the state-wide impact of Service Learning



in the CSU go to: <http://www.calstate.edu/PA/news/2005/CSL05.shtml>

## Service Learning: What CSUCI Students Are Saying

In November 2005 the OSL/CE gathered CSUCI Service Learning students together to share reflections and experiences of their involvement in the community through Service Learning courses. Students who participated in

Fall 2005 Service Learning courses reported that service in the community profoundly impacted them. Students from the Education, Environmental Sciences and Resource Management, and Liberal Studies programs spoke about

the academic benefits and the personal importance of their service in the community.

All students voiced that Service Learning provided them with useful

information that applied to “real-life issues.”

Maria Razo and Sandra Waterbury students in Professor Reder’s English 312 volunteered at the University Preparation School reading to children. Both agreed that their service was more meaningful to them because they were able to link class content to their service.

Students also spoke of the community benefits and Service Learning opportunities that allowed them to address community needs and become civically involved. Ali Heller, a first year student in Professor Popok’s English 102, volunteered at the California Conservation Corps., tutoring high school students toward their General Education Degree. Ali shared the benefits of her Service Learning experience saying, “Instead of just writing essays, we had the honor of going out and helping with the CSUCI community and building the community.”

Leanna Mortenson, enrolled in Professor Rodriguez’s Environmental Science and Resource Management 100 course, volunteered with the US Forest Service and shared the personal benefits of her Service Learning course, “I got to talk to the people in my community about the kinds of work I would be doing in the area of my interest. This was very important to me.”

The OSL/CE will continue to hold student focus groups biannually to learn more about the academic, community and personal benefits of Service Learning.



## Learn and Serve Grant Proposal

OSL/CE is very pleased to announce the planned submission of the Learn and Serve America grant proposal in February, 2006. The Learn and Serve America grant is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service. Learn and Serve America provides direct and indirect support

to K-12 schools, community groups and higher education institutions to facilitate service-learning projects by providing grant support for school-community partnerships and higher education institutions. If granted funding would be \$600,000 over a 3 year period and used to support OSL/CE infrastruc-

ture needs and provide support and services for the CSUCI Service Learning Faculty, Community Partners and students. To learn more about Learn and Serve America go to: <http://www.learnandserve.org/Default.asp>



*Office of  
Service  
Learning and  
Civic  
Engagement  
announces  
planned  
submission of  
Learn and Serve  
grant proposal*

## Service Learning Consultant Visits CSUCI

In November, 2005 OSL/CE had the honor of hosting Dr. Kathleen Rice on campus. Dr. Rice, a finalist for the 2000 Campus Compact Tom Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service Learning, facilitated an Introduction to Service Learning Workshop, co-sponsored by the OSL/CE and the Office of Faculty Development, for CSUCI Faculty, Community Partners and staff.

As a faculty member in the Service Learning Institute of California State University Monterey Bay, Dr. Rice designed, taught and coordinated the required course “Introduction to Service in Multicultural Communities” to assist students in preparing to enter and participate in communities through service

Now as an independent consultant, facilitator and trainer, Dr. Rice supports the work of community and social change agents.

Dr. Rice will continue to serve as a Service Learning resource and share her expertise with the CSUCI campus community throughout 2006.

## Spotlight on Service

Congratulations to 2005 CSUCI graduate Amy Spandrio. Amy was a Service Learning student in Professor Don Rodriguez's Environmental Science and Resource Management Service Learning Capstone course. Amy volunteered with West Coast Environmental and Engineering to help with current water quality research that was being conducted in the Calleguas Creek Watershed. The Calleguas Creek Watershed, located in southern Ventura County, ranks as one of the most impaired watersheds in the state of California. Amy worked alongside the CEO of the organization on local waterways to determine the impact

of agricultural runoff to the Revolon Slough. Her work was recognized by the organization and she was recently offered a position at West Coast Environmental and Engineering as a staff professional in the Land Use Group.

The OSL/CE would like to welcome our newest Service Learning and Civic Engagement Community Partners to the CSUCI community: Cabrillo Economic Development Resource Corporation (CEDC) and Westminster Free Clinic.

CEDC develops and manages, through a community building approach, affordable housing for very low, low and moderate income families in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Westminster Free clinic provides medical care to the uninsured homeless and working poor of our community through caring, compassion, community partnerships, training and education.

We are fortunate to have these new partners as both programs will provide exciting Service Learning opportunities for our students..

## Resources in the Service Learning Library

The OSL/CE maintains a collection of Service Learning resources, available to CSUCI Faculty and Community Partners. Highlighted here are just a few of the resources which may be borrowed via campus mail or pickup. Please feel free to stop by and check them out or call us at (805) 437.8851

*The Complete Guide to Service Learning*, by Carolyn Berger-Kaye

Carolyn Berger-Kay an educational workshop leader and speaker presents service learning—the important steps, essential elements and challenges within a curricular context.

*The Promise of Partnerships*, by Jim Scheibel, Erin Bowley and Steven Jones

Written with input from community organizations this hands on resource offers community organizations practical guidance in establishing and sustaining effective partnerships with higher education.

*Education for What? Produced by Bob Gilner Productions*

This DVD documents the role college students play in helping solve community issues as part of their regular curriculum. Perfect for in class orientations.

## BIG Thanks

We would like to extend a thank you to all who work alongside our CSUCI students as educators and co-educators and to our CSUCI students who serve in our community. Service Learning and Civic Engagement are important components of the CSUCI mission. The service learning experiences and contributions made are invaluable to our student's academic and civic education, and to our community. This program is here because of the your support and commitment.

**CSU Channel Islands**

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Engagement

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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](mailto:pilar.pacheco@csuci.edu) or call Pilar Pacheco at (805) 437.8851. You will be contacted once your message is received.

“Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I will remember. Involve me and I will understand” Chinese Proverb