



# Center for Community Engagement

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## Welcome from the Center's Faculty Co-Directors

The first semester of our new Center for Community Engagement was busy! We started the semester off with a Constitution Day (Sept. 17) debate by two CSUCI political scientists, Sean Kelly and Steve Lefevre. Each gave their view of the relevance of the constitution in our global, post-September 11 world. In October we had two events, both co-sponsored by the Political Science Program. The first was a talk about Middle East politics by Israeli journalist Yitzhak Ben-Horin. Second, co-director, Andrea Grove spoke about her new book (Political Leadership in Foreign Policy: Manipulating Support across Borders; Palgrave, 2007). Later in the semester we brought in a community group to host their meeting on campus: HIV/AIDs prevention training for practitioners. And in December we continued our participation in the American Democracy Project in meetings with faculty and administrators from local community colleges.

We plan to continue to host monthly what we are calling the "Community Engagement Coffeehouse Series" to help the campus and wider community engage with one another about pressing social issues. We are excited to say that we have received IRA funds to support the series. If you have an idea for a future topic or speaker, please let us know. For the most updated version of events in Spring 2008, please see our website ([www.csuci.edu/servicelearning](http://www.csuci.edu/servicelearning)).  
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## CSUCI Recognized In Service Learning Guidebook

CSUCI, along with nine other CSUs, has been selected by a national advisory committee of service-learning coordinators and scholars, chief academic administrators and higher-education leaders for inclusion in Beyond the Books' inaugural *Guide to Service-Learning Colleges and Universities*, published by Student Horizons.

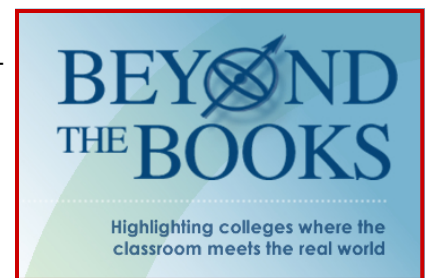
The guidebook profiles some of the most engaged institutions who have demonstrated a significant track record of integrating community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Selected institutions were included because they have strong service learning programs,

based upon clear delineations and criteria. The guidebook serves as an informational

resource to assist parents and students with decisions during the college application process and secondary school counselors in their recommendations of schools. It will also educate high school counselors and administrators of America's community-based organizations.

For more information about the guidebook visit the website at <http://www.beyondthebooks.org/>



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## Citizenship Week Highlights Issues of Hunger and Homelessness

By CSUCI students Betty Arias and Trisha Willard

More and more students are calling attention to the millions of people, locally and globally, who lack adequate shelter, food and water resources.

In October the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) in collaboration with campus organizations hosted Citizenship Week, part of CSUCI's "Be a Part From the Start" program. The purpose of the events was to raise awareness about the realities of hunger and homelessness both locally and globally.

The events were designed to give the CSUCI campus community and community-at-large an opportunity to become informed about these issues, speak out about them, experience them, and take action against them.

The weeklong events included a housing and homelessness faculty and community panel presentation, a student presentation by Kyle Morford on his joint electricity project for a Rwandan orphanage, a Social Justice Poetry Slam and an Oxfam Hunger Banquet. The week ended with a Volunteer Fair that afforded CSUCI students opportunities to sign up as volunteers

with local community based organizations.

In addition, Professor Trudy Milburn's Group Communication class participated in a Day of Service, volunteering at

FOOD Share, a regional food bank. As a community the campus was able to

collect 91 pounds of food from students, staff, and faculty for FOOD Share that was distributed to Ventura County families in need.

Citizenship Week provided an awareness about the issues that impact the community, helped promote the endeavor to end hunger and homelessness, and bring greater solidarity and understanding, as well as promote future civic involvement of CSUCI students.



CSUCI students attended the Volunteer Fair during Citizenship Week.

### Upcoming Conferences

**3rd Annual CSU Conference on Community Based Teaching and Research: From Local to Global Perspectives** will be held Friday, March 7 - Saturday, March 8, 2008 at the Westin Los Angeles Airport Hotel.

The Conference will provide an opportunity for both novice and experienced community scholars to discuss research methods and results, to build multi-campus and interdisciplinary collaborations, and to share lessons learned in addressing critical challenges in working with communities in California and beyond. For more information please visit [http://www.calstate.edu/csl/meetings/research\\_conference/2008/](http://www.calstate.edu/csl/meetings/research_conference/2008/)

**11th Annual Western Region Campus Compact Consortium's Continuums of Service Conference The Engagement Imperative: Academia, Students, and Communities in Partnership** will be held April 17-19 in Portland, Oregon at the Portland Marriott.

The conference will demonstrate how engagement initiatives can advance institutional priorities and strategic partnerships, while building and sustaining healthy local and global communities. The "Engaged Campus" is the future of higher education and imperative to preparing students for the 21st century! For more information please visit <http://www.wacampuscompact.org/conference/index.shtml>

# Spotlight on Service

CSUCI graduate and recipient of the 2006-2007 Outstanding Experiential and Service Learning Student Award Ashleigh Dodson has always been involved in the community, a majority of her time spent working with children. So it was a natural progression for her to want to become a teacher and major in Liberal Studies when she entered CSUCI.

While at CSUCI Ashleigh enrolled in Claudia Reder's Children's Literature course that incorporates service learning and places students in various educational settings reading aloud to children.

"I knew I was going to work with children and was looking forward to it. But I had no idea how much this experience would impact my life."

While serving at Tierra Vista Elementary in Oxnard Ashleigh soon realized that she no longer wanted to work inside the classroom; however she did want to work with children in a different capacity.

"After serving at Tierra Vista and realizing I wanted to go in another direction with my career I decided to explore other avenues of working with children. Over the

summer I volunteered with a non-profit organization, Café on A; working there really solidified my decision to go into the non-profit world and pursue working with a program that benefited kids outside of the classroom. It also helped me make the decision to enter the Master's Program in Business Administration here at CSUCI."

Café on A is a youth leadership program designed to provide options for youths actively at risk in the Oxnard area. Throughout the summer Ashleigh gave of her time helping with fundraising, organizing events and participating in the youth leadership program.

*"Everyone should take a service learning course. It can change your life. That's what it did for me."*  
-Ashleigh Dodson,  
2007 CSUCI graduate

"I really didn't not have a job position I just jumped in and helped out where I was needed. I gained so much experience. I'm glad I have been able to try out what I thought I might want to do. I would not have done this if I hadn't taken that service learning course. It gave me an opportunity to find out what I really wanted to do"

Ashleigh still volunteers at Tierra Vista Elementary and Café on A and will be entering the Master's program this spring 2008.

## Names in the News

Professors Andrew Morris, Don Rodriguez, Phil Hampton each received Building Partnerships for a Better California - Faculty Development Grants. This grant is sponsored by California Campus Compact and *Partnering Community Colleges, Universities, and Communities*, a regional collaborative whose efforts foster civic engagement through service learning.

Biology lecturer Rachel Cartwright and her ESRM students were recently honored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service with an award of recognition for their dedication and hard work to help protect and conserve western snowy plovers and California least terns during the 2007 breeding season at Ormond Beach, Oxnard, California.

English lecturer Christine Popok's article, *Reflections on Service Learning as a Pedagogical Strategy in Composition*, was included in the recently published Service Learning and Civic Engagement series *Race, Poverty and Social Justice*. The purpose of this volume is to provide examples of how service learning can be integrated into courses addressing social justice issues while demonstrating the power of service learning in advancing a course content that is community based and socially engaged.

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This spring we will begin our sponsorship of a CSUCI Model United Nations team, which is a great way to introduce students to global issues and encourage engagement at that level (with the global community). Once we put together a team, and hopefully one that is made up of students across disciplines, they will attend conferences three times a year in southern California starting this April. Again, we are lucky to be able to support this effort with IRA funds at least this year.

This semester has also been the beginning of our implementation of our new strategic plan. We began meeting with a large group of faculty, students, staff and community members last spring as the Center was being approved by the faculty senate. We met over the summer and have created a five year plan. We look forward to being able to implement our mission. Finally, our Center has been collaborating with the other Center directors on new ways to help infuse the university's mission throughout the curriculum. Stay tuned to hear more details about that soon.

Andrea Grove and Trudy Milburn, Faculty Co-Directors

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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.

*"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*