



COMMON GROUND

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SERVICE LEARNING SNAPSHOT FALL 2005

- 69 SL Courses
- 42 SL Faculty
- 1540 SL Students
- 30,800 Service Hours (anticipated)

"Engaged teaching and research make sense in a world where systemic problems, conflicting demands and radical advances in communication technologies require new ways of discovering, integrating and applying knowledge."

—A Wingspread Statement, 2004

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of **Common Ground**. We hope to make this newsletter a regular occasion to report the happenings and accomplishments at the Center for Community Engagement as well as events in the community. We will also report on grant and funding opportunities for faculty, community service opportunities for students, and features on our outstanding community partners. Future issues will feature a column called **Engaging Ideas** which will highlight an idea, event or person that causes us to *think* about community.

In this issue we also introduce you to our three Faculty Fellows, give you the highlights of our very successful 7 Days of Service, and announce this year's three outstanding awardees. We hope you will find this an interesting addition to your reading list.

WE HAVE A NEW NAME

The Community Service Learning Center has been renamed the Center for Community Engagement. The name change followed a long process of redefining our central mission to include community engagement on a broader scale. Our larger mission will go beyond service learning to include partnerships and collaborations in community-based research, community forums, internships and other forms of community engagement. This change is in accord with the nationwide movement to renew the civic engagement mission of education. Across the nation, colleges and universities are reclaiming their mission to educate active, involved and responsible citizens who contribute productively to their local and global communities. Linking learning to the real needs of the community can invigorate the work of both faculty and students, leading to an appreciation of the expertise of people outside the university and the formation of "mutually transformative relationships." It is with this larger vision that we begin this new phase of development as an engaged university.

INTRODUCING THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Mission of the new Center for Community Engagement (CCE) is to serve as a facilitative partner for faculty, students and community members in strengthening community capacity, building social and political capital, enriching the educational experience of students, and facilitating shared community-based research through the coordination of civic engagement, effective service learning, and community collaborations.

The CCE promotes students' involvement in community service learning as part of

academic coursework, assists faculty in developing service learning curriculum, establishes community partnerships and works with faculty and community partners to identify service opportunities that meet community needs and student learning objectives.

The CCE works to streamline community access to the university by providing information on community-based research, service learning courses, and other community engagement activities within the university.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Congratulations and thanks go to **Dr. Lesley Farmer** from Educational Psychology, Administration and Counseling for sending in the winning name for our CCE Newsletter. We received many exciting entries but Dr. Farmer's entry seemed to capture the connectedness and mutual respect we hope to embody between the university and the community. It also symbolizes our willingness to seek common goals and values as we go forth in partnership. For her creativity Dr. Farmer will receive a goody bag filled with many exciting and cool gifts! Everyone who sent in a suggestion will receive a small gift to say THANKS!

THE CCE AS A GATEWAY TO THE COMMUNITY

The structure of the CCE facilitates community access to the information and resources of the university, as well as helps faculty and students to initiate relationships with the community. These relationships may find themselves aligned with one or more of the following alliances:

Education Alliance

- promotes initiatives relating to K-16 youth and academic success including after school programs, faculty development, community-based research, and grant writing
- fosters action grants and community-based research to enhance community educational expertise and improve the local quality of life

Non-Profit Alliance

- focuses on partnerships with organizations that serve to meet both community identified needs and student educational goals
- sponsors dialogues with community and campus stakeholders to identify assets, needs and priorities, as well as designs and maintains a web-based interactive database to facilitate student, faculty

- and community communication
- facilitates access to faculty expertise for programmatic and research interests as well as program evaluation

Student Alliance

- focuses on connections between CCE and student organizations, clubs, and other entities to promote student community and civic engagement activities
- supports and promotes student/youth leadership, mentoring, student recognition, and student participation in community-based research projects

Community Alliance

- promotes participatory citizenship at all levels of society
- hosts community issues forums and other conferences/workshops on pressing social issues, democratic processes and education of civically responsible citizens
- enables local voices and allows creation of issues-based community partnerships for problem-based service learning, research and creative activities

7 DAYS OF SERVICE

Service Learning Faculty & Community Partners Appreciation Ceremony

Oct. 17, 2005—CCE hosted a reception to honor three members of the CSULB campus-community.

The *Leadership and Public Service Award* was presented to Dr. Carlos Jackson of the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles. Dr. Jackson was recognized for his support of service learning through the Carmelitos Housing Development as well as his role in developing the Office of Community and Educational Partnership within the CDC.



Courtney Ahrens (on behalf of Judge Deborah Andrews), Dr. Carlos Jackson and Dr. Malcolm Finney receive recognition from CCE

The *Outstanding Community Innovator Award* was presented to the Honorable Deborah Andrews of the LA Superior Court of California. Judge Andrews was recognized for her development of the Domestic Violence Court Resources Referral Program.

The *Spirit of Service Award* was presented to Dr. Malcolm Finney, Associate Professor of Linguistics and CCE Faculty Fellow. Dr. Finney was recognized for his enthusiasm and soulfulness in his work with the Carmelitos Family Literacy Program and Long Beach Public Library Foundation, as well as for the entirety of his on- and off-campus work.

Community Engagement Discussion

Oct. 18, 2005—Students, faculty, staff and community partners sat down together to talk openly about community engagement.

The discussion provided a forum for these groups to meet on the topics of service philosophy, access to university resources and successful partnerships between campus and community.

This event was central in identifying the avenues for interaction between the community and the university, highlighting university resources that are available to meet community needs. Students and faculty have expertise in many areas, while the community has endless opportunities for application.

Programming Robots for Teachers and Parents

Oct. 21, 2005—Friendship Walk was abuzz with an electric whirr as CECS 401 held a robotics demonstration. CSULB students learn how to program robots to perform different tasks then



interact with students from the Carmelitos community through this service learning class. Through reflection, CECS 401 students learn how to recognize similarities and differences among students from a diverse population.

FACULTY FELLOWS REPORTS

DR. MALCOLM FINNEY-CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

As a faculty fellow, Dr. Finney organizes and participates in various projects, forums, workshops and discussion groups, the goal of which is to bring together CSULB faculty who are interested in pedagogical and research aspects of service learning and community engagement. More specifically, he conducts curriculum development workshops for faculty

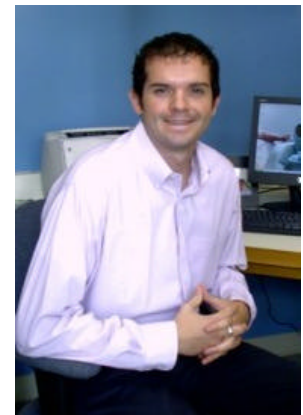
who are committed to incorporating service learning into their courses. Dr. Finney further coordinates activities that promote Participatory/Action Community-Based scholarship among CSULB faculty (that is, research on the causes of, and solutions to community problems identified by the community within the faculty's areas of expertise).



DR. COREY JOHNSON-STUDENT INITIATIVES

In addition to placing and managing over 30 students in the Carmelitos Enrichment Center and Carmelitos After-school Recreation programs, Dr. Johnson has laid the foundation for the Student Council for Community Engagement. Students at California State University Long Beach currently provide a significant amount of time, energy, expertise and spirit through community engagement. The charge of the Student Council on Community Engagement is to create a conduit for streamlining resources and increasing visibility of the community service/engagement activities of

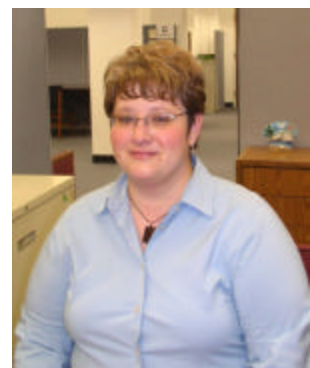
academic clubs and service organizations on the CSULB campus. The goals are to
 a) connect student organizations across campus to participate together in meaningful community-based learning and service activities
 b) more easily identify community partners and projects that will meet their service goals and
 c) provide enjoyable and fulfilling service experiences. The SCCE will be organized under the Center for Community Engagement and in partnership with Associated Students, Inc.



DR. BETH MANKE-PROGRAM EVALUATION

National research suggests that community service learning facilitates cultural and racial understanding and positively affects college students' communication skills, ability to work with others, and sense of social responsibility. Likewise, there is evidence to suggest that service learning provides useful services to communities. But exactly how do CSULB students and the Long Beach community benefit from community service learning? To address this question, Dr. Beth Manke is currently supervising several ongoing evaluation projects. For example, Dr. Manke is addressing whether and how CSULB students who participate as mentors in the Long Beach BLAST program influence children who are at-risk for academic failure.

Dr. Manke is also developing an online survey that would be completed by all CSULB community service learning students. This short survey would tap college students' attitudes about community service and learning. Administered at the beginning of the semester and again after students have completed their community service learning hours, data collected will allow us to track student involvement in community service learning across an entire college career, and thus estimate the impact that community service activities have on college students. The survey may also be a valuable resource for faculty looking to publish information concerning community service learning.



SERVICE LEARNING PRO DATABASE CCE CONTACT INFORMATION

The initial goal of the Service Learning Pro database is to consolidate community partnerships and projects, CSULB classes and student information into one location. The database will contain the location, service and contact information about community partners (e.g., Carmelitos, LB BLAST, etc.), as well as projects they sponsor. The database will also contain service-learning course

information. With both project and course information available, faculty and community partners will be able to "match" resources and needs. Community partners will also be able to manage service-learning student timecards and evaluations. Students will be able to view projects that have been matched with their service-learning course and sign up to work with a community partner.

CSU CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY-BASED TEACHING AND RESEARCH:

CREATING KNOWLEDGE AND BUILDING COMMUNITY

Mar. 3-4, 2006—Next spring, Cal Poly Pomona will host the first CSU Conference on Community-Based Teaching and Research. CCE will lead a panel discussion at this conference on Converging Operations: Combining Service Learning, Community Based Research and Public Service for a Cohesive RTP Portfolio. This panel discussion targets faculty who desire to become engaged with the community in a way that meaningfully unifies their teaching, research and service, while serving the goals of the community, the student and the scholar. Panelists will map out a natural pathway of community

engagement, beginning with service-learning and moving on to developing and sustaining community based scholarship that examines teaching effectiveness, community evaluation needs, and community focused research. Topics include:

- Community-based Teaching: The Importance of Community Connections
- Researching Community-based Teaching Effectiveness
- From Researching Community Teaching to Community Needs Research
- An RTP Portfolio of Community Based Research
- Institutional Support and Resources

For more information, please visit:
http://www.calstate.edu/CSL/resources/research_conference.shtml

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UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOKS!

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