



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

Academic Internships Office

Message from the AIO

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

As we reflect on the 2024–2025 academic year, we are so proud and grateful for the transformative work accomplished through the Academic Internships Office (AIO). This year, our programs continued to grow in scope and impact, providing meaningful, paid internship opportunities that empower students while strengthening our community partnerships.

Through the **Long Beach Community Internship Program (LBCIP)** and **College Corps@The Beach**, we supported students in completing more than 30,000 hours of service. These students brought their talents, passion, and dedication to local nonprofits, schools, and CSULB departments. Interns reported significant gains in leadership, communication, and career-specific skills. They applied classroom knowledge to real-world challenges, built lasting relationships, and discovered new pathways for civic engagement and professional development.

This year also marked the implementation of the **Policy on Academic Internships**, which ensures academic internship programs remain rigorous, equitable, and aligned with high-impact practice standards. We hosted workshops and developed new resources to support faculty, staff, and community partners in delivering high-impact internship experiences. And showcased our programs and initiatives on the national stage.

None of this would be possible without the support of our community partners, donors, faculty, staff, and most of all students. Your commitment to student success and the public good is the foundation of our work.

With gratitude,

Academic Internships Office
California State University, Long Beach



Juan Benitez
Executive Director, CCE



Michelle Chang
Director, AIO



Kristal Domme
Internship Program Assistant, AIO



Beth Manke
Sr. Faculty Fellow, AIO

Academic Internship Programs Overview

The Academic Internships Office continues to serve as a hub for experiential learning, supporting two flagship programs: the **Long Beach Community Internship Program** (LBCIP) and **College Corps@The Beach**. These programs provide paid, academic internships that connect students with local nonprofits and campus units, fostering both academic and professional growth.

In 2024-2025, a total of 86 students completed over 34,000 hours of service across 42 community partner sites, contributing more than a million dollars in economic value to the region. These internships empower students—many of whom are first-generation college students and students of color—to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings, develop career-specific skills, and engage meaningfully with their communities.

Through structured coursework, workshops, and mentorship, AIO ensures that each internship is a high-impact learning experience. LBCIP and College Corps@The Beach not only enhance student success but also strengthen the university's commitment to civic engagement and the public good.

Internship Programs by the Numbers

86

Students completed paid academic internships

34,272

Hours completed

42

Community Partners hosted academic interns

\$1,147,769

Contributed to the local economy



Long Beach Community Internship Program

The Long Beach Community Internship Program (LBCIP) establishes collaborations with Long Beach nonprofits to create a bridge for students back to their communities to work, live, and thrive. LBCIP increases the number of CSULB students who complete paid internships while providing opportunities for students to do meaningful work in their own neighborhoods, as they apply coursework to real world settings, hone professional skills, network, and explore local career options.

Program Specifics

Students participating in the Long Beach Community Internship Program:

- Complete a minimum of 90 hours of work with local nonprofits
- Enroll in parallel internship courses that provide professional development and coaching
- Participate in program workshops and trainings
- Receive \$2,000 participation awards

Our Students

- 100%** graduated from a Long Beach high school or are currently living in the local area and consider Long Beach home
- 95%** are students of color
- 85%** are first in their families to earn a college degree

Community Partners

TICHEN 
CLINIC FOR CHILDREN

LONG BEACH
SYMPHONY

JAZZ
angels



Arts COUNCIL
FOR **LONG BEACH**


AQUARIUM
OF THE **PACIFIC**®

F&M **Farmers & Merchants Bank**
FOUNDATION 

Student participation awards paid for by the Farmers & Merchants Bank Foundation and Frank and Marjory Newell (Gates Family Foundation).

Long Beach Community Internship Program



Post-Internship Surveys

100%

- Rated their internships as either good or excellent.
- Noted that they acquired transferable skills and had the opportunity to engage with diverse people and ideas.
- Noted that they were able to apply course knowledge to real-world situations and develop the ability to effectively work as part of a team.
- Reported an increase in self-confidence and a desire to further engage in community service.

92%

- Noted they developed leadership skills at their internship sites.
- Reported that they honed their written communication skills.
- Learned new career-specific skills during their internship work.
- Reported that they are able to identify organizations other than their internship sites for potential future employment.



Long Beach Community Internship Program Interns



Isabelle Angulo
Psychology
For the Child



Samantha Arnold
Art Education
Angels Gate
Cultural Center



Kelsey Burns
Psychology
Not Alone
@ The Beach



Candice Clark-Mansoor
Creative Writing
Jazz Angels



Mandy Desilva
Psychology
South Coast Chorale



Edith Figueroa
Psychology
For the Child



Kennedy Heicke
Psychology
Tichenor Clinic
for Children



Jasmine Lee
Studio Arts
San Pedro Arts
Association



Samantha Miranda
Cinematic Arts
Aquarium of
the Pacific



Vanessa Olivares
Psychology
For the Child



Itzel Orduna
Communication
Studies
South Coast Chorale



Estefania Perez
Computer Science
Jazz Angels

Long Beach Community Internship Program Interns



Benjamine Rifkin
Music-Jazz
Performance
Jazz Angels



Diana Rodriguez
Community
Health Education
AOC7



Margaret Soun
Music Education-
Vocal/Choral
South Coast
Chorale



Fernanda Valdivia
Music Education-
Vocal/Choral
Long Beach
Symphony



Meghan Weatherspoon
Studio Arts
Arts Council of
Long Beach

End of Year Luncheon

In May we gathered LBCIP interns and site supervisors to celebrate the accomplishments of the interns and recognize our generous donors and site hosts who make this program possible.



College Corps@The Beach

College Corps@The Beach is part of the #CaliforniansForAll College Corps Governor's initiative administered by California Volunteers in partnership with California colleges and universities with a strong commitment to civic and community engagement. College Corps@The Beach aims to increase the number of CSULB undergraduate students who complete paid internships, especially students of color, those who are first in their families to go to college, and those who are Pell eligible. The College Corps@The Beach program works with campus and community partners to place students in two-semester paid internships which provide opportunities to do impactful work in their local communities.

Program Specifics

Students participating in College Corps@The Beach:

- Complete 450 hours of work with local nonprofits and campus units
- Enroll in parallel internship courses that provide additional wrap around support
- Participate in program and Corps to Career workshops and trainings
- Receive up to a \$10,000 participation award

Our Fellows

- 94%** are students of color
- 59%** are first in their families to earn a college degree
- 43%** are transfer students
- 61%** graduate in Spring or Summer 2025

69

Students completed paid academic internships

31,842

Hours completed

32

Community Partners hosted academic interns

\$1,066,388

Contributed to the local economy



#CaliforniansForAll
CollegeCorps

College Corps@The Beach

To uplift student voices, while also assessing internship experiences, the College Corps@The Beach program uses creative assessment strategies, specifically Photovoice, to assess student internship experiences. Photovoice is a visual qualitative research method that combines photography and narrative storytelling. Student interns submit a photo and 150-word narrative to share what they have learned. Below is a sampling of student's Photovoice submission that highlight the impact of this transformative internship experience.



Through this experience, I have **developed essential skills** such as effective communication, problem-solving, and the ability to assess and address client needs holistically. Personally, this internship has **deepened my empathy and reinforced my values around service**, compassion, and promoting independence among vulnerable populations. It has also **solidified my aspiration to pursue a career in healthcare**, as I see the meaningful difference small, consistent actions can make in improving someone's quality of life.

Devin Luong, Health Science, Intern at Meals on Wheels

Completing my internship with the College Corps program at the Shark Lab has been **an incredibly rewarding and transformative experience**. This opportunity has allowed me to develop a diverse set of skills, including time management, effective communication, and the ability to engage with people of all ages. Overall, **this internship has not only enhanced my professional capabilities but also solidified my aspiration to combine science, education, and advocacy to make a meaningful impact in my field**.

Alexis Sanchez, Biology, Intern at CSULB Shark Lab



Completing my internship with College Corps has been an **amazing and transformative experience**. It has **opened my eyes to opportunities and perspectives I hadn't considered before, allowing me to connect my educational journey to real-world applications**. Through this work I have developed valuable skills in leadership, communication, patience, teamwork, and adaptability while gaining hands-on experience in public health outreach. This internship has strengthened my understanding of the impact small, meaningful actions can have on a community and **solidified my commitment to pursuing a career that combines health, education, and sustainability**.

Bianca Flores, Community Health Education, Intern at Ground Education

College Corps@The Beach Events

Throughout the year, College Corps@The Beach hosts events to enhance Fellows' internship experiences through leadership and professional development activities. Below is a recap of this year's College Corps@The Beach events.

College Corps Fellows and Site Supervisor Welcome



125 College Corps fellows, faculty, staff, and community partners gathered for the College Corps Welcome and Orientation. During the orientation fellows reviewed program expectations and developed internship goals. Site supervisors received specialized training in how to best support fellows, including how to craft internship assignments, identifying interns' strengths and assets, and best practices for effective mentoring and communication. Fellows and site supervisors joined together in the afternoon to role play scenarios and plan for the fall semester.

Lunch and Listen



This mid-year event provides an opportunity for fellows to share their experiences, offer feedback, and prepare for the spring semester. The Corps to Career team also provided a professional development session on *Translating The Corps Experience*.

Mid-Year Leadership Retreat

Hosted by California Volunteers, this retreat brings together fellows from 10 regional colleges and universities to engage in professional and mental health trainings.



College Corps@The Beach Events

City Nature Challenge and Green Generation Showcase

Fellows participated in community and campus events during Earth Week to support engagement in sustainability efforts and showcase their contributions to sustainability projects at their internship sites.



Corps to Career Fair

Hosted by California Volunteers, the career fair brought together 200+ Fellows and 40+ employers to network and explore additional internship and employment opportunities.



College Corps End of Year Celebration



At the end of the year, we celebrated College Corps Cohort 3 Fellows and community host sites and presented student and host site supervisor awards to recognize outstanding contributions made by Fellows and community partners.

Academic Internships Event Highlight

Internship Jamboree

On Friday, September 13, 2024, over 150 CSULB students, administrators, faculty, staff, and community partners gathered at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Gardens to celebrate campus efforts to increase student access to and participation in paid internships. Thank you to The President's Office for their continued support of the Internship Jamboree. This event highlighted campus-wide internship programs, housed in both Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. Center for Community Engagement's Executive Director Juan Benitez kicked off the event and the Jamboree featured speakers, President Jane Close Conoley, College Corps Intern Eros Monzones, Long Beach Community Internship Program alum and current AIO Program Assistant, Kristal Domme, and community partner Devon Ivey, Director of Research at Families Uniting Families.



Academic Internships Event Highlight

AIO Conference Presentations

To showcase the impactful work of our programs on a national stage, the AIO team—including faculty, staff, and students—presented at two conferences this year. These presentations highlighted the transformative role of internships in advancing social mobility, featured innovative assessment strategies, and highlighted the leadership development opportunities available to College Corps Fellows.

National Social Mobility Symposium at Cal State San Marcos, February 2025

The Social Mobility Symposium brings together thought leaders to share insights and explore innovative approaches to supporting student success through partnerships with businesses, K-12 school districts, nonprofits and the broader community.

The AIO team's poster presentation highlights how LBCIP and College Corps@the Beach break down barriers to internship access for underrepresented students and foster social mobility.



AAC&U Conference on Learning and Student Success (CLASS) San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 2025



The inaugural CLASS conference *focused on building the coalitions to create more just and equitable campuses and communities*. LBCIP and College Corps@The Beach presented three sessions at the conference.

Using Photovoice in the Assessment of High-Impact Practices: Elevating Student Voices About Their Internship Experiences, Kristal Domme & Dr. Beth Manke

Long Beach Community Internship Program: Creating Opportunities for Local Students, Michelle Chang & Dr. Beth Manke

The Leadership Academy: An Equity Opportunity for Student Interns,

Dr. Bonnie Gaisor, College Corps Fellows- Jennifer Chavez, Valentina Jimenez, and Alejandra Romo

Academic Internships Updates

Policy on Academic Internships

In October 2024 the Academic Senate passed the Policy on Academic Internships (non-clinical/non-licensure) to codify policy and procedures to maximize educational experiences with internships, while protecting students as they complete off-campus internships. The policy defines an academic internship as an experience that *“formally integrates students’ academic study with practice experience in a cooperating organization. It is a faculty-approved and directed actively designed to enhance academic knowledge and promote professional preparation by offering supervised experience in business, nonprofit, government, educational, and/or other workplace settings.”*

The policy provides departments/units with guidelines related to internship planning, site assessment, sites visit (if needed), execution and maintenance of campus affiliation agreements, placement and orientation requirements, and annual review requirements. Departments/Units are directed to the Academic Internships Office for support and guidance in implementing the policy.

Internship Instructor and Staff Resources

In response to the Policy on Academic Internships, the Academic Internships Office hosted an Internship Instructor and Staff workshop to provide resources and best practices on managing academic internship courses and/or programs. Through the RSVP process, attendees identified the topics that were of most importance and co-created the workshop session. During the session, AIO Senior Faculty Fellow, Beth Manke and AIO Director, Michelle Chang, guided participants through the Policy on Academic Internships, provided templates and samples of high-impact internship course assignments, discussed best practices in developing and maintaining authentic partnerships, and shared professional development opportunities for student interns. The AIO also developed an Academic Internships Handbook for internship instructors and staff who facilitate academic internships. It provides details of the procedures in place to ensure alignment with CSU system wide and campus policies, resources and templates for best practices in managing academic internships, and serves as a useful reference for addressing matters concerning academic internships.



INTERNSHIP INSTRUCTOR HANDBOOK

2025

CCE
ACADEMIC
INTERNSHIPS
OFFICE
CSULB

Academic Internships Updates

Internship Instructor and Staff Survey Findings

As part of the internship instructor and staff workshop, we asked participants to share how academic internship classes/programs are currently managed in their departments and what additional support and resources are needed. Three colleges and nine departments are represented in the survey feedback, including **College of Health and Human Services-** Recreation & Leisure, Health Science, Applied Nutrition & Dietetics; **College of Liberal Arts-** Political Science, Psychology, Human Development, and Communication Studies; and **College of the Arts-** Design and Dance.

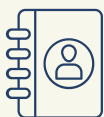
Key Findings

- Common practices among departments include tracking student placements and gathering feedback from students and site supervisors (90%) and establishing new internship partnerships (70%).
- The respondents also identified common challenges around establishing partnerships, fit analysis and site evaluations, contract management, and tracking and evaluation of internship sites.

Respondents shared the support most needed are around



Developing cross-college partnerships



Having a centralized directory of internship sites



Hiring full-time staff for high-volume departments



Advising students on internship opportunities



More support and clarity around the affiliation agreement process



Providing administrative and technical support for departments using S4



Training and on-going support for site supervisors

Faculty and staff are committed to supporting student internships but face significant administrative burdens. Increased institutional support, streamlined systems, and dedicated personnel are essential to sustain and grow quality internship programs.

S4@The Beach Capabilities

One key platform that can be used to address the above concerns and support the advancement of experiential learning at CSULB is S4@The Beach. Developed by the CSU Chancellor's Office, S4 is designed to streamline risk assessment, partnership management, experiential learning tracking, and reporting. This year, the CCE leveraged S4 to generate customized reports for individual departments, demonstrating the platform's robust data management capabilities. These efforts showcased how S4 can be a powerful tool for assessing, enhancing, and elevating experiential learning opportunities across campus and within specific programs.

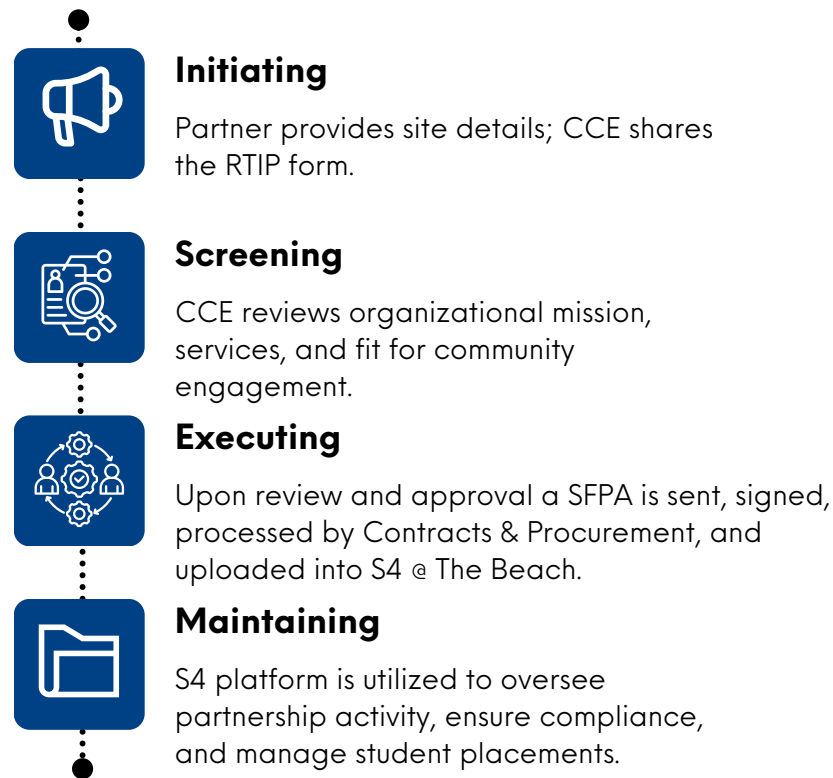
CCE Community Partnerships

Community Partnership Development Process

At the CCE, our partnership process is intentionally designed to promote high-quality and meaningful experiences for both students and community partners. Through a cycle of collaboration grounded in mutual respect and shared goals, we aim to foster impactful engagement that benefits all participants.

Partnerships are typically initiated by faculty, students, community organizations, or CCE staff and are often established 1-2 semesters in advance to allow for intentional planning and coordination.

The cycle concludes with a Student Field Placement Agreement (SFPA) being secured, formalizing the partnership and enabling student engagement through service learning or academic internships.



Best Practices for Developing Community Partners

The CCE supports partnerships between CSULB and a wide range of community organizations to create transformative, hands-on learning opportunities for students. Guided by the Carnegie definition of community engagement, these collaborations are built on mutual benefit, shared resources, and a commitment to the public good. Community partners including nonprofits, local businesses, government agencies, and educational institutions must have or be in the process of securing a Student Field Placement Agreement (SFPA) in accordance with university policies PS 19-13 and PS 24-21.

These partnerships are shaped by best practices that uphold core CCE principles, including the integration of high impact practices for student success; asset-based approaches that recognize partners as co-educators; participatory designs that involve multiple stakeholders in addressing community-identified needs; and reciprocal relationships built on mutual respect and shared goals.

These collaborations should demonstrate how the partnerships foster engaged learning, support civic responsibility, and address real-world challenges in alignment with the CCE's mission.

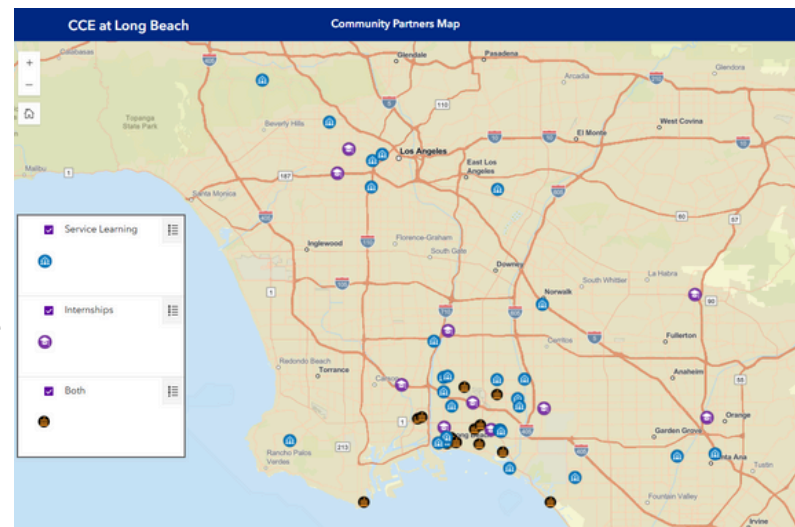
CCE Community Partnerships

CCE Community Partner Story Map

The GEOG 482/582 course, Advanced Digital Cartography & GIS taught by Dr. Hyowon Ban, at the Department of Geography collaborated with six California community partners (LB Forward, City Fabrick, LAANE, Food Oasis LA, Grid Alternatives, and CCE) in Spring 2025. The course aimed to equip students with skills to design digital maps and address community mapping needs.

Two students, Eric Bohay and Charlie Lopez, from the course developed a dynamic story map and interactive partnership map to highlight CCE's community partners across

Southern California. The map features **85 active partners**—organizations that have hosted students and maintain current affiliation agreements with CSULB. Users can filter the map to display sites that support service learning, academic internships, or both. An additional feature allows users to explore focus areas, which represent the core issues each organization addresses. These focus areas reflect the mission-driven priorities that guide the organization's programs, initiatives, and community impact.



Center for Community Engagement Advisory Board



In Fall 2024, the CCE reinstated its Advisory Board, bringing together a diverse group of on- and off-campus leaders to lend their expertise and strategic insight. The board plays a vital role in guiding the CCE's priorities, with a shared commitment to expanding student access to high-impact learning experiences such as service learning, academic internships, and community-based research. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Advisory Board members for their time, knowledge, and advocacy in advancing the mission and initiatives of the CCE.

Pictured from top left to right:
Jeff Klaus, Catherine Ward, Pei-Fang Hung
Tiffany Roberts, Christina Kreachbaum, James Ahumada
Monsterrat Pineda, Erin Booth-Caro, Darick Simpson
Darnell Lewis, Eduardo Leyva, Sarah Monteiro

Making a Difference in our Community

As this report demonstrates, internships play a vital role in the educational, personal, and professional development of CSULB students. Beyond fostering student growth, these experiences also generate meaningful benefits for our community partners. Over the past year, **42 community organizations hosted 86 interns**, who contributed their time and talents to critical areas such as sustainability, educational access, senior services, mental health, child and family support, food security, and services for the unhoused. Community partners consistently share how interns bring fresh perspectives, valuable skills, and renewed energy—enhancing both organizational capacity and the well-being of the communities they serve.



Linc Housing is "committed to building and preserving housing that is affordable, environmentally sustainable, and a catalyst for community improvement." Linc has supported 10 student interns and hired a LBCIP student intern, Sharnyle Gonzales.

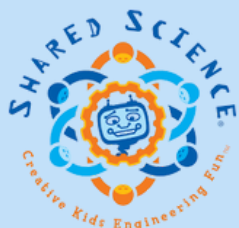
Interns bring fresh perspectives, creative ideas, and enthusiasm to their work. Interns have an impact by making valuable contributions while also gaining hands-on experience in their field of study or interest.



Shared Science's mission is "to build on children's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics learning experiences through constructive, creative, and playful programs, while fostering learning communities." They have hosted interns from a variety of majors including Psychology, Finance, and Computer Science.

"Our interns have been a huge asset to our organization the past two years. Each intern brought something unique to the table that made our

programs even better. These interns brought fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and valuable skills that allowed us to deliver engaging STEM experiences to even more students in Long Beach, while also improving our internal operations."



Making a Difference in our Community

Meals on Wheels provides a service of home delivered nutritionally balanced meals for individuals in need. Their goal is “to enable the chronically ill, seniors, veterans and disabled to remain independent & safe in their own homes for as long as possible.” Interns have allowed the organization to expand their services and engage the community in new ways.



With this partnership, we are able to expand our organization to not only a meal delivery and friendly visitor program but also with phone calls. Our clients look forward to seeing the students new faces every semester knowing that they will build a new connection.



Viet Rainbow of Orange County is a grassroots organization based in Orange County, California that builds community and mobilizes intergenerationally. “We are grounded in values of equity, healing, joy, and social justice. We primarily work with LGBTQ+ Vietnamese Americans and their loved ones through research, education, and advocacy, while also strengthening collective power alongside other communities working towards liberation.” VROC has hosted interns through the Project Resilience Internship Program.



*Having student interns allows for our staff to take a step back and see our mission and goals through the perspective of those we serve. Our interns have fresh eyes and creative dreams... **Every group of interns bring new people to learn about our organization; their events and projects also leave an impression on our organization’s future.***

#PaidInternships

#StudentSuccess

C.C.E.

ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS

#HighImpactPractice

#PublicGood

#SOCIALJUSTICE



BRINGING COMMUNITIES AND THE UNIVERSITY TOGETHER.

Our Mission

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) plays an important role in advancing CSULB's Beach 2030 Vision and Strategic Priorities through a broad range of programs, initiatives, projects and High Impact Practices (HIPs), epitomized by mutually beneficially and reciprocal relationships and partnerships centered around the public good. The CCE achieves this shared vision of excellence by expanding, strengthening and creating "... more opportunities to implement impactful curricula and experiential learning, and open doors for even more ambitious projects for the public good."

To learn more:

SCAN HERE

