

Common Ground

CSULB Center for Community Engagement (CCE)

Southeast Los Angeles Civic Leadership Academy

We are past the mid-point of our two-year civic engagement initiative in partnership with the California Community Foundation (CCF) and emerging community leaders.



Page 3

A Message from the Executive Director

These are exciting times for CSULB's Center for Community Engagement (CCE). As you may recall, in 2008 the campus was selected for the "Community Engagement Classification" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; recognizing CSULB as among the best in the nation in finding ways to engage with and contribute to local communities. To achieve this distinction, the campus fully demonstrated an alignment of community engagement efforts with its institutional mission, resources and practices.

This year, our campus will apply for this elective classification once again (2013). The CCE plays a crucial role in helping CSULB achieve its mission and envisioned future to be an outstanding teaching intensive, research-driven university that emphasizes student engagement, scholarly and creative achievement, civic participation and global perspectives. This provides the foundation for the CCE to support transformational, sustainable and multi-stakeholder processes that bring communities and the university together to enrich campus-community programs and initiatives characterized by mutual and reciprocal campus-community partnerships.

Continued on Page 4

In This Issue

- Page 2 Faculty Spotlight: Som Chounlamountry
- Page 3 Southeast Los Angeles Civic Leadership Academy
- Page 5 Community Spotlight: Friends of the Colorado Lagoon
- Page 6 El Monte Advanced Leadership Institute
- Page 7 Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach
- Page 9 BHC Long Beach AmeriCorps in its 2nd Year



Bringing the University and Communities Together...

Like us on Facebook  or find us at www.csulb.edu/cce

Faculty Spotlight: Som Chounlamountry

With his four pillars for success in his Political Science classes, (1) communication; (2) participation; (3) perseverance; and (4) volunteerism, CSULB faculty member Som Chounlamountry has quickly become one of the campus's star faculty of all things Service Learning. He started at CSULB in 2007 teaching courses in American Politics and International Relations. In 2010, he took over the Comparative Political Movements (POSC 450) capstone course, teaching up to four sections per semester, including summers. This course explores the causes, progression, and consequences of political movements. He also designs and teaches courses in American and California government, and International Relations.

His story begins in Laos, where he was born. His family came to the U.S. in 1981, as a result of the aftermath of the Viet-Nam War, with less than \$20 in their pockets. He grew up in Southern California cheering for the Angels and Clippers, and became fascinated with Political Science while studying at UCLA. He has been hooked ever since, completing a Master's Degree at USC, and now sharing his enthusiasm for the political process by teaching at CSULB and Los Angeles Mission College. Chounlamountry employs innovative strategies such as Political Scrapbook to heighten political awareness and promotes civic responsibility through Service Learning, volunteerism and political empowerment. To engage his students, he has held events like a Candidates' Forum and Potlucks with Policy Makers before major elections and voter awareness campaigns.



6,000 volunteer hours
5,000 Service Learning hours

At Los Angeles Mission College, he has designed and implemented a mentorship program for 120 Teacher Prep Students and over 50 Mentors to advocate for student services and plan for student success at the college level and beyond.

Som's Numbers at a Glance



"Don't let the long last name frighten you. Try to pronounce it like CHEWN-LA-MOON-TREE. That was simple, right?"

Each semester, he encourages his students to engage in community service; they contributed well over 6,000 extra-credit volunteer hours. The students in his POSC 450 classes have completed more than 5,000 Service Learning hours. Some of their accomplishments have included: creating a promotional video for TreePeople, implementing a Public Relations program for the Shoestring City Ranch, designing and building an Android application to log in Service Learning hours, collecting 300 new toys campus-wide for a shelter, holding a fundraiser, which raised more than \$1,000 for The Center in Long Beach, and registering more than the 1,250 voters through a voter awareness program. All of these activities have been supported or sponsored by the Center for Community Engagement, the Political Science Department, and the wonderful staff and faculty of CSULB.

Southeast L.A. Civic Leadership Academy Launch

Over 60 community members from eight Southeast Los Angeles cities completed the first-ever Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Civic Leadership Academy (CLA), an 18-month program aimed at developing civic leaders from the community to actively participate in civic affairs. The SELA Graduation Ceremony took place on December 5, 2012, and was sponsored by the California Community Foundation (CCF) and the CCE at CSULB. Graduates will be working together to launch a regional civic engagement project in January 2013.



*“So what does it mean to be a leader in your community?”
(SELA resident)*

Purpose of the Civic Leadership Academy (CLA)

The SELA Civic Leadership Academy (CLA) seeks to foster a culture of civic engagement in Southeast Los Angeles cities by developing a cohort of community civic leaders with the knowledge, skills, and networks to actively participate in civic affairs by addressing key community issues to make positive changes for all communities. The academy works with emerging civic leaders in eight Southeast Los Angeles cities to expand and deepen the region’s network of civic leaders and to foster a culture of civic involvement.

Who Are Emerging Civic Leaders?

Emerging civic leaders are individuals who are passionate about making a positive difference in their community and are actively leading neighborhood associations, youth clubs, faith groups and other groups that contribute to community. They are present in every city but are often not provided an opportunity to have an impact on their city.

How Can You Support These Leaders?

As part of the academy, the participants are undertaking civic engagement projects to address issues that they have identified in their communities. By attending the sessions beginning in January 2013, you can learn about these projects and how to support them. In addition, elected leaders in the Southeast LA region have a unique opportunity to support these community leaders and facilitate their efforts to improve their communities.



Background

At the beginning of last year, CCF provided funding for the academy to build the civic engagement and leadership skills of community-based leaders in the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Maywood, South Gate, and Walnut Park. The CCE at CSULB received planning, and two-year implementation grants from CCF because of CCE’s extensive experience in community leadership development. In collaboration with Dr. Rigoberto Rodriguez from Chicano and Latino Studies, the CCE led a broad-based outreach process through non-profits that serve the region and educational institutions that resulted in over 60 individuals partaking in an eighteen-month fellowship. The graduation/launch on December 5, 2012 was the culmination of the coursework (Civics 101 and 102), consisting of eight full Saturdays of instruction and field-based work. After the graduation, they will continue to apply their skills by undertaking civic engagement projects in their communities, and continue meeting for workshops and forums through August 2013.



Continued from page 1

I would just like to highlight a few of our center's accomplishments thus far in AY 2012/13 that help to advance our center's mission and CSULB's guiding vision for our work with campus and community partners by supporting university efforts that transform society through Service Learning, Community-based Participatory and Action Research, and Community Engagement Initiatives.

Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach (BHC LB). As part of the BHC LB Host Team, our center is now in its fourth year of involvement in The California Endowment's (TCE) multi-million dollar, 10-year, place-based initiative focused on the social determinants of a healthy community in west and central Long Beach. After a one-year planning process, and now in the third year of implementation, our campus team continues to support the vision of thousands of community members, organizations and key stakeholders in fulfilling their vision for a healthier Long Beach. Another component of BHC LB is an AmeriCorps project, which focuses on youth development in the target area. To date, CCE has received nearly \$1 million in grants from TCE supporting this initiative.

Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Civic Engagement Initiative. Supported by funding from the California Community Foundation (CCF), over 60 community members of eight SELA cities completed the first-ever SELA Civic Leadership Academy (CLA), an 18-month program aimed at developing civic leaders from the community to actively participate in civic affairs. Graduates will be working together to launch a regional civic engagement project through 2013. To date, CCE has received \$225,000 in grants supporting this initiative.

El Monte Community Building Initiative (CBI). Also supported by funding from CCF, our center is currently offering an Advanced Leadership Institute for past participants of our Community Scholars Program (which we offered in El Monte for two years). With a focus on Health and Education, community leaders are addressing key issues through community projects in these two areas. To date, CCE has received over \$270,000 in grants supporting this initiative.

Strategic Planning. In an effort to remain strong in our efforts to fulfill our center's mission, we are currently going through a broad-based, multi-stakeholder, year-long strategic planning process to update our previous strategic plan (2008-2011). Our process is guided by the idea that "leaning" the university toward communities brings added value to the community by making university resources accessible, while communities provide a site for praxis (reflective action) and learning for our students, staff and faculty as we address community needs.



Looking forward to Spring 2013

As mentioned previously, our campus earned the "2008 Community Engagement Classification" from the Carnegie Foundation, and we will be reapplying for this distinction this year. The CCE looks forward to further strengthening our campus's community linkages, partnerships and institutional commitment to community engagement. Our expectation is that through this process CSULB will build on its commitment of university-community collaborations that contribute to creating vibrant and healthy environments where communities have the opportunity to fulfill their greatest potential as students keep achieving highly valued degrees. Be on the lookout for announcements this spring as we gear up to resubmit our campus's application.

We also look forward to furthering our university's guiding vision through our work on our: current projects, initiatives and activities; Spring Community Engagement Institute (details to follow); Faculty-Partner luncheons; CCE Leadership Board; Faculty Community of Practice; CSULB's Alternative Spring Break RFP (currently out); and our Strategic Planning process. To sum up, it is campus efforts like these that enrich, enlighten and advance the university's ability to fulfill its mission and be responsive to community needs, issues and concerns.

Spotlight: Friends of the Colorado Lagoon (FOCL)



Tidal Influence. “Volunteers helped plant 215 plants on November 5th, 315 plants on the November 10th, 420 plants on November 12th, 150 on November 19th, and the salt marsh is looking happy and healthy.”

What was once a sandy swimming beach and home to the 1932 United States Olympic diving and swimming trials, the Colorado Lagoon deteriorated over time into a highly polluted lagoon covered in benthic algae. If not for the local efforts of concerned citizens, this neighborhood wetland could have been lost to the community forever due to poor water quality and high sediment toxicity.

In 2004, the Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) rallied together and raised funds to complete a restoration feasibility study. Their work to restore and preserve one of the area's only coastal salt marsh lagoons has not stopped since. FOCL remains an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to:

- Find solutions that protect the public health and that promote clean water
- Restore and Protect the aquatic and wildlife habitat
- Provide public education about the critical role wetlands play in our environment
- Provide clean and safe recreation opportunities for the community
- Develop and utilize progressive storm-water management techniques that protect the environment and public safety.

According to the City of Long Beach Parks and Recreation website, the area was “purchased in 1923 from the San Gabriel River Improvement Company after passage of a bond issue by Long Beach voters. The Lagoon is approximately half land area and half open salt-water area. Originally open to the northwest end of Alamitos Bay, a bulkhead and tide gate installed in 1929 allowed the construction of Colorado Street across the corner of Alamitos Bay.” As the water quality diminished through the 1970s, so too did its popularity, and by 2002, the Lagoon was designated as an “impaired water body” by the State of California.

Since 2009, faculty, staff and students at CSULB have established meaningful partnerships with FOCL, including partnering with service-learning classes taught by Dr. Christine Whitcraft (who runs the CSULB Wetlands Ecology Lab and sits on the FOCL Board). Over the years, students have logged more than 400 hours, helping the FOCL with community-based restoration, education and stewardship projects, and habitat restoration.

[Continued on Page 12](#)

El Monte Advanced Community Leadership Institute (ACLI)

The El Monte Advanced Community Leadership Institute (ACLI) is a one-year program offered to graduates of the CCE's Community Scholars Program (CSP) in three target neighborhoods in the City of El Monte. The ACLI was designed as a second phase of development for participants who have been a part of the Introductory level CSP on leadership development. Previous CSP trainings were offered in El Monte in two terms (Spring 2010 and Fall 2011). In total, over 100 El Monte residents went through these trainings. The ACLI was designed to build on the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and beliefs participants developed and strengthened as community leaders while, at the same time, introducing them to civic related issues in the City of El Monte. These participants or community scholars were introduced to issues such as: local government and governance structures, political interest groups, paths toward a larger civic impact on their community, and further developing skills to become effective community leaders in their community.

The first phase of the ACLI revolved around the implementation of a community education forum focused local civic issues in El Monte, such as local ballot Measures F and H.

The second phase of the ACLI (scheduled to begin this January 2013) will focus on health and public health issues in El Monte, and community scholars will develop a viable policy focused, and community-based project that will be implemented and sustained by ACLI members, other community members using local assets, resources, and by leveraging other efforts.



Over 70 El Monte residents attended and participated in the Community Forum

One of the outcomes of the El Monte ACLI, was that community scholars learned how to plan, outreach and implement a community educational community forum on two local measures.

Community Forum

Over the course of six weeks, ACLI members met weekly to plan and prepare for a Community Forum on local Measures F and H. The forum consisted of: expert presentations on the measures, small group discussions, and a Q&A session with the experts. ACLI members played key roles at the forum such as: group facilitators and Masters of Ceremony. Extensive outreach was done by the community scholars through their personal and professional networks to get residents better informed on the implications of the upcoming local ballot measures. The purpose of the forum was to have a more educated voter turnout on November 6, 2012. ACLI members also conducted pre- and post-surveys to measure the community's level of understanding of both local measures. Overall, ACLI members were able to mobilize over 70 residents of El Monte very quickly to attend and actively participate in the forum.



El Monte ACLI members (Community Scholars) serving as facilitators during the small group discussions at the El Monte Community Forum.

Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach (BHC LB)

Our center is now in its fourth year of involvement in The California Endowment's (TCE) multi-million dollar, 10-year, place-based initiative focused on the social determinants of a healthy community in west and central Long Beach. After a one-year planning process, and now in the third year of implementation, our campus team continues to support the vision of thousands of community members, organizations and key stakeholders in fulfilling their vision for a healthier Long Beach.



As part of our work through the BHC Hub Host Team, we are working closely with other key partners on- and off-campus to support the implementation of community-based strategies for this initiative. These include but are not limited to:

Schools Work Group (SWG)

Our center is currently facilitating one of four BHC LB groups leading the implementation of strategies in key outcome areas for the initiative. The SWG has decided to focus their efforts on addressing three educational issues under the "Health Happens in Schools" area: parent engagement, school discipline, and the achievement gap.

Adult Leadership Development

Under the direction of Dr. Rigoberto Rodriguez from the Department of Chicano and Latino Studies, the Adult Leadership team is working on developing a framework for and designing a curriculum to help support, expand, and strengthen Long Beach's community base of leaders.

Evaluation and Learning (E&L)

Under the direction of Dr. Kevin Malotte, E&L staff from CSULB, including Dr. Laura D'Anna and Ms. Suzanne Padilla, is working with BHC LB members to develop an Evaluation & Learning Plan, which

will determine process and outcome indicators and strategies for the BHC LB local evaluation. As part of this plan, a tool has been drafted, which will be used to assess Resident Power among BHC LB community members including youth. The E&L staff is also currently assisting the BHC LB Hub Host Team as it works with the BHC community to revise the BHC LB Community Action Plan, which will identify priorities and provide a roadmap for the next two to three years. In addition, the E&L staff is participating in "cross-site learning and evaluation" activities, along with other local evaluators, hub managers and program staff across all 14 BHC communities in California to assist in understanding progress and to learn at the initiative level.

AmeriCorps

Under the direction of our center's Project Coordinator, Kendra Jennis, the ultimate goal of the AmeriCorps youth development, mentoring project is to encourage students to graduate high school, to set smart goals for the future, and to develop healthy behaviors, decision-making skills and leadership.



Community Engagement Efforts Thrive

<u>Numbers at a Glance</u>	<u>2009/10</u>	<u>2010/11</u>	<u>2011/12</u>
Service Learning courses (sections)	112	100	112
New Service Learning courses developed	3	4	11
Students enrolled in Service Learning courses	2,826	2,588	3,001
Estimated number of Service Learning hours	40,680	39,486	45,355
Estimated number of community partner sites	115	112	130
Number of active Service Learning Agreements	51	49	73
Number of Students with Direct Service	115	134	127

Achievements

CCE Awards & Recognitions

- Catholic Charities San Pedro Region, “Outstanding Service to Community” Award.
- Long Beach BLAST “Outstanding College Partner” Award.
- Californians for Justice (CFJ) Award for, “Leadership in Helping to Advance Community and Youth Organizing and Systems Change Efforts to Build Healthier Communities in Long Beach.”
- California Campus Compact-Community Engagement Student Fellowship (CESF) initiative.

CBA-CLA-CCE Collaboration

- Creation of a Business Leadership Academy.
- Continued work toward the development of a College of Business Administration-College of Liberal Arts-Center for Community Engagement Minor in Economic and Nonprofit Development in Ethnic Communities.
- Creation of an Anaheim Corridor Business Development Project (in collaboration with the City of Long Beach).
- The creation of two new MBA Service Learning Courses (GBA 695 & GBA 699) focussed on projects at the Villages at Cabrillo in Long Beach.
- The establishment of new Service Learning Agreements with the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Cambodia Town Inc., and the Urban League.

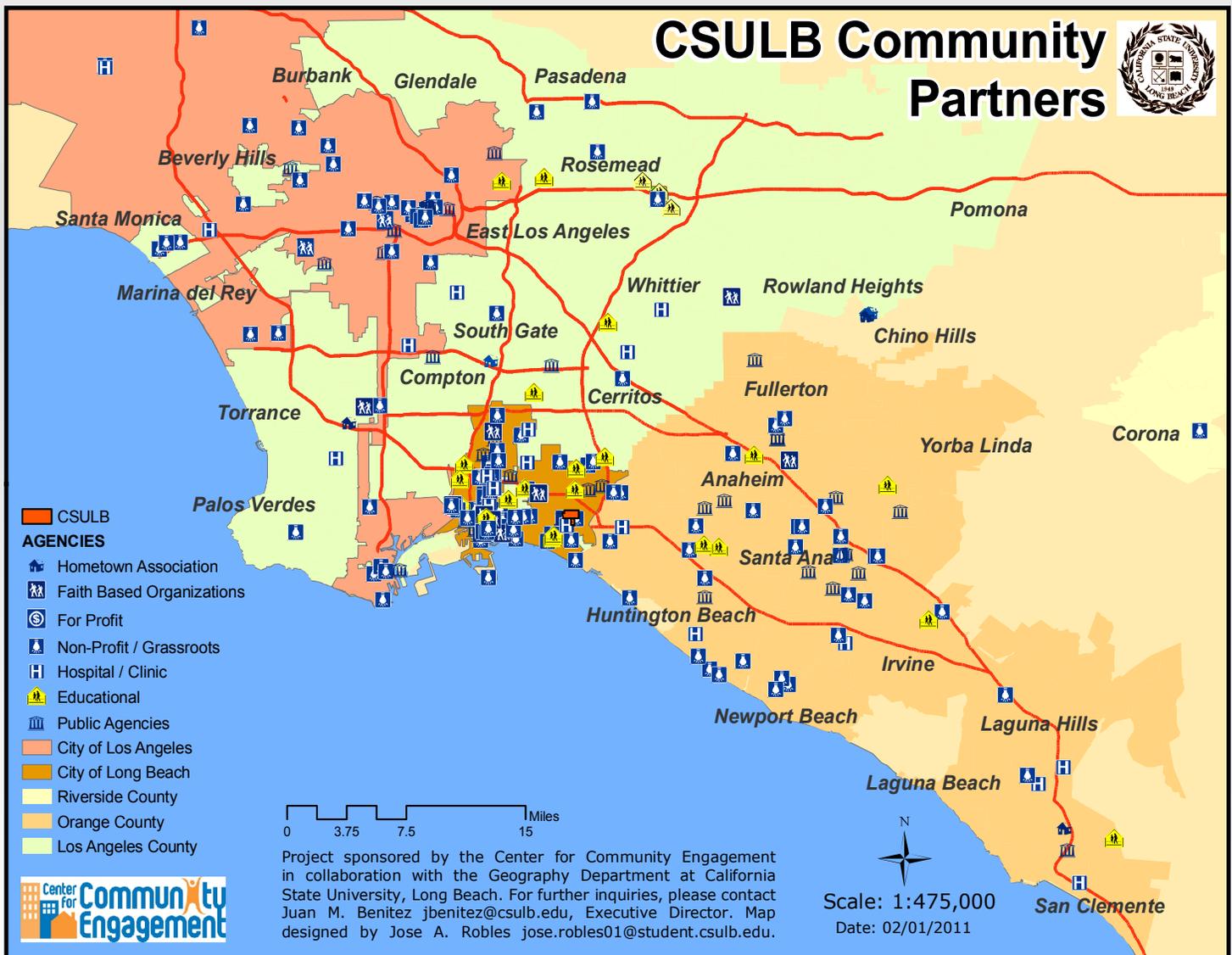
Even During Difficult Economic Times

Community Scholars Program (CSP)

A cornerstone of the CCE’s community engagement initiatives since 2008, this leadership development program has involved over 400 community members (participating in 30-90 hour sets of trainings on key issues and policies), representing over 70 organizations, and over 80 CSULB students serving as co-facilitators and project assistants as part of their Service Learning experience. In collaboration with College of Liberal Arts (CLA), the College for Continuing and Professional Education (CCPE), and the Department of Chicano and Latino Studies (CHLS), the CCE has offered the program in Santa Ana, eight Southeast Los Angeles Cities, El Monte, and here on campus.

Information about the Map below

A snapshot of the dozens of CCE affiliate organizations in the region in 2011. Currently, we have more than 70 active partnerships through our center connected to over 100 Service Learning Courses across the campus.



BHC AmeriCorps Spotlight: Donnelle Brown

As soon as you enter Donnelle's classroom at Washington Middle School, you feel welcomed and ready to have fun. Donnelle is one of our BHC AmeriCorps members, and is serving his second service term as a mentor in Central Long Beach. He works in the Male Academy, an in-school program aimed at improving the graduation rate of underrepresented promising male students and encouraging lifelong learning by preparing them for college and career options. He mentors twenty students and his sessions focus on what he describes as "things that students need to know but things that classroom teachers don't always teach." If you walked into one of his sessions, you may hear conversations about leadership, relationships, tolerance or respect.

When asked to describe a typical day, Donnelle laughed, "every day is different and you have to be ready for it." He meets with his mentees both one-on-one and in small groups. Many times, he visits students in their classrooms where he has the opportunity to connect with their teachers and peers as well.

When we met with Donnelle, he was hosting a session with three of his mentees. They had just finished talking about self-esteem, and he asked each student to define the term and to talk about things that they liked about themselves and one another. After the discussion, the students created "self-portraits" out of magazine clippings and continued to chat together about school, weekend plans and their favorite TV shows. Perhaps not a typical classroom, but a great deal of learning was still happening.



One of Donnelle's favorite activities is "Game Day."

"This is a great bonding moment for me, the students and their friends... it provides a great opportunity for me to get to know the mentees better. They tell me things about their families, and about their homes and social lives so I can better understand where they are coming from".



The BHC Long Beach AmeriCorps community mural project from MLK Jr. Day of Service 2012.

BHC Long Beach AmeriCorps Project at a Glance

Serving West and Central Long Beach...

- 10 full-time members
- Members mentor 200 youth at six schools
- Members lead 4 community service projects with the mentees each year
- Members complete a minimum of 17,000 service hours in a year
- Service hours are equivalent to \$411,060 in support of schools and community organizations

Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach AmeriCorps Project

Many youth wish they had an adult to connect with on a daily basis- someone who is not a parent or a peer but someone who will look out for them, listen to them and encourage them to do their best. Thanks to funding from AmeriCorps- 200 youth in Long Beach are now connected with mentors who do just that.

On September 1st, ten AmeriCorps members launched their service terms with Building Healthy Communities: Long Beach (BHC LB). This is the second year in which this project has been operating in the Long Beach community. Members serve full-time for 11 months; for many this is an opportunity to gain experience, make connections and give back to their communities after graduating from college. Our team serves as mentors in LBUSD middle-schools and high-schools, and collectively they engage approximately 200 students in six schools throughout Central and West Long Beach. Members partner with community organizations and school groups to connect with youth and deliver services. This year we are partnering with Downtown Associated Youth Services, LBUSD Male Academy and the LBUSD Female Academy in Washington Middle School, Nelson Academy, Cabrillo High School, Poly High School, PAAL and Renaissance High School. The ultimate goal of the mentoring relationship is to encourage students to graduate high school, to set smart goals for the future, and to develop healthy behaviors, decision-making skills and leadership.



Left to Right: AmeriCorps Members Sarah Duarte, Brenda Carrillo, Terrence Bryant, Lindsey Jeans Shaw, Aniela Lopez, Donnelle Brown, Denis Kimani, Sary Pang, Wendy Limon, and Ian Speece

The members were officially sworn into service in October 20th during a Make A Difference Day Service Project at New City Elementary School Urban Farm (photo above). Members invited community partners, youth mentees and their parents to participate in a morning of intense gardening in order to spruce up the community space for the school and its surrounding neighbors. Later, guests gathered to witness the AmeriCorps members take their official Oath of Service and receive their certificates. We are excited to see what these members will accomplish throughout the rest of the school year!



Continued from page 5

A current CSULB Master's student writing her thesis on the impacts of diverse plantings on restoration success in the Colorado Lagoon, and two CSULB alumni, Taylor Park and Eric Zahn, went on to create Tidal Influence, an ecological company focused on conservation, restoration, research and education related to urban-influenced natural areas, hired by the FOCL to amplify its impact.

On Aug 25, 2012, the Colorado Lagoon officially reopened to the public. Dr. Whitcraft described the event as "a huge success and a great show of community support and partnership. We had people swimming in the new clean lagoon, activities for the kids and adults alike, delicious food trucks, lively music, and best of all, a vibrant ecosystem to celebrate" (President's Letter, 2012).

Through many years of hard work and commitment, and countless volunteer hours, the Colorado Lagoon has been revived, complete with a Wetland and Marine Science Education Center, and the community can enjoy this natural oasis once again. There is still considerable work to do to maintain and expand the use of the area, but FOCL is shining example of community-based planning, partnership, preservation, education and outreach. If you have not visited the Colorado Lagoon, there is no better time than now. It is located in Long Beach at 5119 East Colorado Street, by Appian Way.

Sources:

Brasuell, James. "Long Beach's Icky Colorado Lagoon Getting All Cleaned Up." CurbedLA. 11, June 2012.
http://la.curbed.com/archives/2012/06/long_beachs_icky_colorado_lagoon_getting_all_cleaned_up.php
 City of Long Beach website. Accessed 5 Dec 2012.
http://www.longbeach.gov/park/parks_and_open_spaces/parks/colorado_lagoon_history.asp
 Milena, Sasha. "Students work to improve lagoon." Daily 49er. 7 Dec 2011.
 Segura, Joe. "Long Beach set to reopen Colorado Lagoon." Press Telegram. 21 Aug 2012.
 Tidal Influence website. <http://tidalinfluence.com>. Accessed 5 Dec 2012.
 Whitcraft, Christine. "President's Letter." FOCL Newsletter. 20 Oct 2012.
http://www.coloradolagoon.org/News/FOCL_Newlsetter_October%202012_Final.pdf

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

4,347 CSULB Students engaged in at least 20 hours of community service during Academic Year 2011/12

•
 CSULB students performed 984,716 of community service hours during the last Academic Year

•
 CSULB has two thriving AmeriCorps (10 members) and JusticeCorps (12 members) programs every year

•
 CSULB has the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classifications in both "Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships"

•
 CSULB offers approximately 130 Service Learning classes during the Academic Year

•
 CSULB's Center for Community Engagement has received more than \$1.5 million in external funding for community-based projects in the last 3 years

•
 Monica Delgado, our center's Community Engagement Support Coordinator got married to Luiz Otavio Pereira this past Fall 2012. Congratulations!!!

•
 The CCE added two new "team" members. Our center happily welcomed Luna Sofia and Ixchel as new arrivals from proud parents Hector and Carmen Arreola, and Juan and Lluvia Benitez. FYI, we are also awaiting baby Jennis from expectant parents Dave and Kendra Jennis later this spring). Congratulations!!!



Ixchel and Luna hanging out at Luna's baptismal celebration this past December 2012.

CollaBOOration at its Best!



Ventures. Everyone came together to give the children an opportunity to enjoy the holiday and make this large campus feel more like a small, friendly neighborhood. Without everyone's efforts most of the children would have had no other opportunity to trick-or-treat.

Joanie Conley is a long-time veteran of service learning. In recent years her Recreation and Leisure Studies' students have partnered with Villages at Cabrillo and Long Beach Community Action Partnership to provide recreational and community building activities for the homeless and recently homeless families and military veterans living at the Villages at Cabrillo. These events have provided a much-needed sense of normalcy and joy in the lives of hundreds of children and their families during a time of crisis and uncertainty. Joanie and her students are just one example of the many ways that CSULB students and faculty have provided service and support to the families, veterans, and service-providers that make up the Villages at Cabrillo.

This year's fun-filled Halloween week kicked off with 250 residents enjoying a community-wide Spooktacular event organized by 30 California State University Long Beach REC students, headed by Professor Joanne Conley. Festivities included spooky themed game booths, bouncy houses, arts and crafts, face painting, a photo booth, tacos, and entertainment by 102.7 KIIS FM. "This event was for such an amazing cause for a worthy community; the Villages and the community here definitely deserve to have a well-planned Halloween extravaganza" said one CSULB student. Other activities during the week included a haunted house which was visited by over 100 residents (young and old) and described by one child as, "the coolest thing ever," and of course trick-or-treating with over 70 children showing off their costumes and filling their bags at the 12 different stops.

Residents of all ages were able to enjoy this year's Halloween festivities at Century Villages thanks to the joint efforts from School on Wheels, CSULB, Project PLAY, the Oasis Community Center, Century Housing, Century Villages at Cabrillo staff, and staff and residents from on-site programs including U.S. Vets, New Image, VVRC, and PATH



Reprinted, in part, with permission from The Village Anchor, Edition 8: Winter 2012, "CollaBOOration at its Best" by Century Villages at Cabrillo's Village Anchor Team

What to Look Forward to in 2013: Upcoming Events and Activities (CCE Calendar)

January:

- 21 **Building Healthy Communities (BHC) AmeriCorps Project: MLK Day of Service Event**
- 21 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day — Campus Closed**
- 22 **First Day of Spring Classes**
- 24 **El Monte Advanced Community Leadership Institute Workshop (future dates TBD)**
- 31 **Southeast Los Angeles Civic Leadership Academy Workshop (future dates TBD)**

February:

- 22 **CSULB Alternative Spring Break Faculty RFP Deadline for Submissions**
- TBD **CCE Faculty-Partner Workshop**

March:

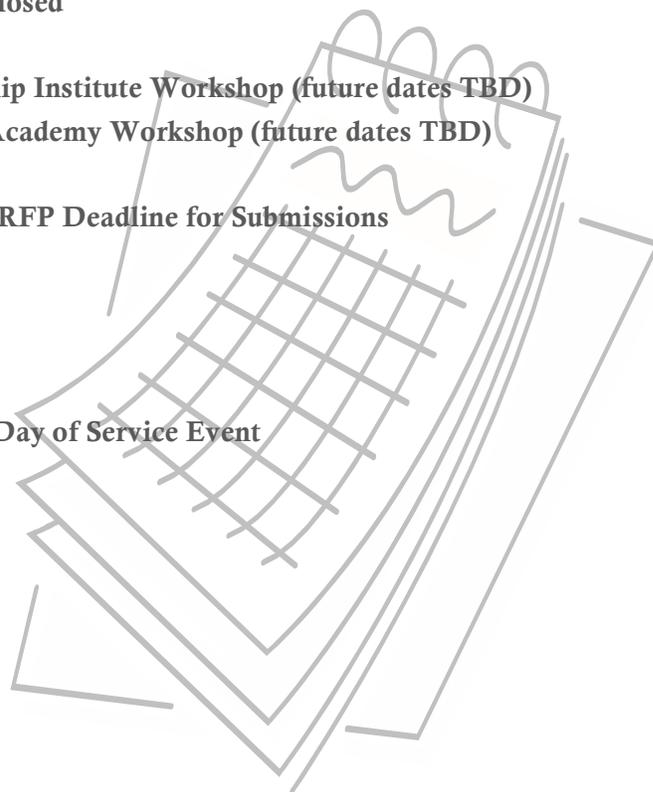
- 8 **Deadline to Request IRA Funds**
- 9-17 **AmeriCorps Week**
- TBD **BHC AmeriCorps Project: Cesar Chavez Day of Service Event**
- 31-6 **Alternative Spring Break**

April:

- 1 **Cesar Chavez Day - Campus Closed**
- 1-5 **Spring Break**
- 26 **CCE Community Engagement Institute**

May:

- 10 **Last Day of Spring Classes**
- 13-18 **Spring Final Exams Week**
- 27 **Memorial Day - Campus Closed**



CCE Contact Information

CCE Staff:

Juan M. Benitez, Executive Director
 (562)985-7324
 Juan.Benitez@csulb.edu

Monica Delgado, Community Engagement Coordinator
 (562)985-2307
 Monica.Delgado@csulb.edu

Carina Sass, Associate Director
 (562)985-2376
 Carina.Sass@csulb.edu

Kendra Jennis, Projects Coordinator
 (562)985-7369
 Kendra.Jennis@csulb.edu

Carmen Arreola, Administrative Support Coordinator
 (562)985-7019
 Carmen.Arreola@csulb.edu

Christian Ponce, Extended Education Specialist
 (562)985-1543
 Christian.Ponce@csulb.edu

What Happens When the Funding Goes Away?

Oftentimes when the funding ends, so does the program. However when the last of the funding from a Department of Housing and Urban Development “Hispanic Serving Institutions Assisting Communities” grant supporting a CSULB partnership with The Villages at Cabrillo was expended in January 2012 the answer was... “We keep on going!” Long-term sustainability is one of the biggest challenges for university/community partnerships once financial resources are used up. The ability to “keep on going” depends on how the partnership is created, developed and sustained.



Not Yours, Not Mine, But Ours!

Partners—university *and* community—should be invested from the beginning; engaged in each step of the process, from identifying the issue or need, establishing goals and objectives, creating and implementing the plan and assessing the outcomes.

Focusing on Today *and* Tomorrow.

Partnerships are often established to address immediate community needs, but the ability of partners to maintain a long-term view while addressing an immediate need is a strong characteristic of a sustainable partnership. Providing direct service helps today, but establishing community capacity and an infrastructure will help tomorrow (and next week, and next year).

Sharing Roles.

Community partners serve as co-educators and research partners, bringing life experience and knowledge to enhance students’ educational experience and inform research. Faculty and students bring a fresh perspective, resources and experience to the community. Expanding beyond the traditional, “expected” roles allow partners to understand and appreciate the value of one another’s work and can enhance the overall work of the partnership.

Support Each Other’s Goals.

Each partner comes with their own goals and agenda. Understanding and working together to support one another’s goals helps the partnership thrive.

The Center for Community Engagement is ready to assist and support faculty and organizations seeking to establish ongoing partnerships. Dr. Maria Claver (Gerontology), a long-time service-learning faculty member, will be working as a CCE Faculty Fellow during the Spring 2013 semester to support faculty interested in becoming more engaged with the community. Maria and the rest of the CCE staff are available for consultation and Maria is bringing together a faculty “community of practice” for service-learning faculty practitioners. For more information, contact the CCE at campus extension 5-7131 or e-mail Maria Claver at maria.claver@csulb.edu.

One of Ours: CCE Student Assistant Spotlight

Vivian Cai, a senior, joined the CCE team in 2009 (making her our most experienced Student Assistant). She was previously at the Center for Language Minority Education & Research (CLMER), where she mentored/tutored elementary school students. She shared that she has grown professionally and as an individual through the opportunity given to her by the Federal Work Study. She added that, as a freshman at CSULB, everything was new. She just graduated from high school and she had no work experience. She really had no idea what a “real-life” working environment would be like.

When Vivian joined the CCE, she started working at the Oasis Community Center at the Villages at Cabrillo, a comprehensive social service community center serving veterans and non-veteran homeless individuals and families. She helped residents create resumes and complete job applications. According to her, working for the CCE has made her aware of the change one can make for communities, “Helping out others who are in need has given me a great sense of satisfaction and fulfillment.”



Vivian is currently an Interior Design major. She immigrated to the U.S. from China in 2003. We congratulate her for becoming a US citizen in December, 2012. Her expected graduation is May 2013, and the CCE team is proud of her even though this really means that we will be losing her as she moves on to bigger and better things. Until then, we will continue to benefit from Vivian's work ethic and great personality. The CCE truly appreciates the efforts that Vivian and all of our Student Assistants toward achieving our mission and goals.

California State University, Long Beach
Center for Community Engagement

1250 Bellflower Boulevard-MS2007
Long Beach, CA 90840-2007