



COMMON GROUND

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

With continued commitment to the Center for Community Engagement's foundations, our theme for 2007-08 has been *New Directions*. New mission and goals strengthen the CCE's foundations to support transformational, sustainable, and multi-stakeholder priorities and initiatives, and new office space provides an expanded and more welcoming environment for faculty, students, and community partners.



Engagement and civic participation were goals of CCE-sponsored events involving faculty, students, and community members, providing opportunities for campus/community engagement and dialogue. Faculty and community representatives met together at the *Faculty and Community Partnerships Luncheon* and later at our first-ever *State of the Center*. More than 100 individuals participated in events and activities during *Seven Days of Service*. Both campus and community members engaged in dialogue on some of the city's most pressing issues at the *Campus-Community Dialogue on Safety, Health, and Education in Long Beach* and at the *5th Annual Community Issues Forum*.

A new College of Liberal Arts/CCE collaboration initiated this spring expanded our Faculty Fellows Program. This, together with a \$600,000 HUD grant for our Villages at Cabrillo initiative, supports new community engagement initiatives around community-based participatory research and community development. We launched our *Community Scholars Program* with *Leadership and Organizational Capacity in*

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COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Community Scholars Program is a new CCE initiative to provide leadership development and organization capacity building for community-based organizations. Dr. Rigoberto Rodriguez, (Chicano and Latino Studies) and Dr. Juan M. Benitez organized a series of pilot workshops entitled, "Leadership and Organizational Capacity in Latino Voluntary Associations," for leaders and emergent leaders of Latino voluntary associations in Southern California to help sustain their effort to improve social and economic conditions in the United States and their country of origin. Students from CHLS 498 *Senior Colloquium* learned about local and trans-local community development as they assisted with the event set-up and through facilitating discussions among participants. A University College and Extension Services certificate was presented to those participants that completed the entire program.

Participating associations/organizations include: *COMUNIDADES*, *La Federación de Clubes Jaliscienses*, and the L.A. County Children's Planning Council. The CCE enjoyed partnering with these groups and will seek funding to host future workshops.



Community scholars participate in leadership development activities.

"Service-Learning accords students opportunities to make connections between what is learned in the classroom and the real world; it enables students to learn about phenomena in their subtlety and complexity."

—Elias Mpofu
Professor, Pennsylvania State University,
University Park

COMMUNITY

THE VILLAGE SQUARE

vil-lage (noun) *a community of people smaller than a town; an intimate association of families.*



Veteran housing complex at the Villages at Cabrillo.

The Villages at Cabrillo is a unique model for social services. Located on a 26-acre former U.S. Navy housing site in West Long Beach, Villages at Cabrillo is a comprehensive residential social service community serving veteran and non-veteran homeless individuals and families in need of transitional housing and services. CSULB, through the Center for Community Engagement and supported by a HUD *Hispanic Institutions Serving Communities* grant, is partnering with the agencies serving the Villages at Cabrillo to help improve connections and coordination between organizations and to expand and develop an array of services for families residing at the Villages.

Our initial focus has been to identify needs and resources for new or expanded services for teens and for children attending LBUSD's *Mary Bethune Transitional Program for Homeless Children* and neighboring Hudson School (both serving grades K-8). The youth committee helped facilitate arrangements for summer camps: Dr. Laura Henriques will bring the Young Scientists Camp to Bethune and Dr. Carlos Silveira will welcome 20 children to CSULB for the Young Artists Camp. Donations from Verizon and the Long Beach Junior League make these programs possible.

We look with anticipation to the fall! CSULB students will serve as after school academic mentors through LB BLAST. Dr. Scott Wilson and his Anthropology 478 class, *Anthropology & Film*, will work with Bethune to develop a DVD to increase awareness among LBUSD educators on the needs and rights of homeless children. And the CSULB-sponsored *Oasis Community Center* will be opened to provide a small computer lab and a classroom for Villages at Cabrillo agencies to use for shared programming and services for children, teens, and families. A special "grand opening" will take place in mid-September.

COMMUNITY ISSUES FORUM 2008—YOUTH EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS: PATHWAYS TO YOUR FUTURE

Each year the Community Issues Forum addresses some of the most critical issues in Long Beach and the surrounding communities. This year the conference theme was Youth Educational Options: Pathways to Your Future. With nearly 250 attendees, including middle, high school and college students, community members, parents, and educators, we were able to discuss students' educational experiences and provide a better understanding of college and career options available after high school.

Provost Karen Gould opened the forum with an encouraging word regarding youth success after high school. Keynote speakers included 55th District Assembly Member Warren Furutani, LBCC President-Superintendent Eloy Ortiz Oakley and Robert Tagorda of LBUSD's Office of the Superintendent.

Dialogue centered around concerns of coming to school, how the schools can stay connected with the community, and what influences students to pursue either a career or a college education after high

school. The day ended with an Action Plan, asking participants to brainstorm how they can make a difference in the lives of today's youth. Many participants stated that increased communication and dissemination of information is necessary for youth and their parents to stay informed about how to prepare for either college or a career after high school. Attendees also voiced concern regarding legislation and federal funding for education.



CSULB graduate student Pamela Bishoff (left) takes notes as she facilitates discussion between local high school students and community members during the World Café discussions.

STUDENTS

JUSTICECORPS MEMBERS: REFLECTIONS AND MOVING FORWARD

Sajili Bacallo (Senior, Business Administration) worked at Long Beach Self-Help Legal Access Center: "From my experience with my internship, the pop-culture view [of lawyers and the legal system] is met with the daily issues of citizens and immigrants of America that opens my awareness of the needs of the public to navigate their way through the legal system.

"This internship gave me a first-hand look at the direct effect of helping the community. The real experience is hearing the litigants' stories regarding their issues. When these litigants come in need of help the volunteers are the first to help them through the process. My aspirations in the field of law have become more defined in finding a niche in society that needs legal help. I look forward to initially serving my country in the United States Marine Corps after [completing] my law degree as a military attorney. After my commitment to the military, I plan on moving into civil law that has a direct effect on the community."

Erin Adam (Senior, Political Science) worked at Long Beach Self-Help Legal Access Center, Van Nuys Self-Help Legal Access Center, and Downtown Los Angeles Resource Centers for Self Represented Litigants. She is currently a JusticeCorps University Representative and Fellow:

"I remember being extremely frightened and nervous on my first day as a volunteer. I knew virtually nothing about family law. Soon, I was able to comfortably use everyday legal jargon and

adequately describe the legal process to litigants who came into the office. Many of the litigants seemed as if they had nearly lost faith in a legal system that they had found virtually impossible to navigate on their own. Through JusticeCorps, I was able to contribute positively to the community by helping to restore that faith. I felt that through each divorce and paternity case I was helping Los Angeles families reconcile their problems and end years of conflict. JusticeCorps was an amazing program that taught me about the importance of public service and enabled me to have the courage to believe in myself."



JusticeCorps members gather for their Reflection Meeting to discuss their thoughts and experiences of assisting self-represented litigants.



STUDENT AND FACULTY SERVICE LEARNING SURVEY

Please fill out and return this portion to the Center for Community Engagement (Academic Services Room 127). Responses are confidential.

1. Students and Faculty: Was Service Learning Pro database a required component of your SL course? Yes No
2. Students: How often did your professor remind you to use/login to SLPro throughout the semester?
Faculty: How often did you remind your students to use/login to SLPro throughout the semester?
 A. 0 C. 3-4
 B. 1-2 D. 5 or more

3. Students and Faculty: How concerned are you about risk and/or worker's compensation while at your Service Learning site?
 A. not at all C. a lot
 B. somewhat D. extremely
4. Students: My Service Learning experience was...
Faculty: My interactions with the Center for Community Engagement and my community partners were...
(Mark all that apply)
 A. educational D. what I expected
 B. worthwhile E. unfavorable
 C. helpful/beneficial F. not what I expected
Other: _____

FACULTY

LEARNING COMMUNITIES: MORE THAN CHILD'S PLAY

Offering yet another exciting semester of faculty curriculum development workshops in **Fall 2007**, the Center for Community Engagement was able to secure the participation of five faculty whose courses fully demonstrated the potential for Service Learning Capstone status. The faculty proposals centered on developing courses to archive historical films, engage students in community projects around women's sports, senior citizens' activities, and Chicano History. The faculty participants ranged from newly hired faculty to department chairs indicating that Service Learning continues to capture the interest and attention of faculty at all stages of their career. By the end of the four workshop sessions, both course syllabi and standard course outlines were well on their way to fulfilling requirements for GE Capstone Courses. We wish our faculty participants the very best as they continue their efforts in Service Learning and community engagement.

In the **Spring 2008** semester six faculty members from across the university participated in the CCE's Curriculum Development Workshop, producing a remarkably diverse range of new Service Learning courses. From an introductory course on Chicano/a literature to graduate courses in Science Education and Educational Psychology, Administration and Counseling, these new classes will offer students a variety of opportunities to practice civic engagement and to serve local students and community groups. These new offerings also include an interdisciplinary course on "child's play" and a class on analog electrical circuits—wow! We hope that faculty across the disciplines will propose equally diverse and interesting courses for the fall 2008 workshop.

—Dr. Valerie McKay
and Dr. George Hart
2007-08 Curriculum Development
Faculty Fellows

"...Service Learning continues to capture the interest and attention of faculty at all stages of their career."

LIFESPAN OF A SERVICE LEARNING COURSE: FIVE YEARS & COUNTING

During the five years that Dr. Mary McPherson has taught COMM 450 *Communication Training in Organizations*, she discovered that students go through three phases. They begin their Service Learning assignment feeling scared but highly motivated, then as time passes they feel confused and overwhelmed by the project's scope. However, by the time students complete the project, they are experiencing a sense of accomplishment and enlightenment. They never before had to put their learning to work and often say that they learned more from this class than from any other.

COMM 450 students work with community organizations to create and deliver a communication skills workshop on topics such as empathetic listening, interviewing, and negotiation skills. Students conduct a needs assessment with the organization to identify significant communication needs. Based on the assessment, students develop their training materials. Students will then present the training to the organization.

Past partnering organizations include Boys and Girls Club of Long Beach, Catholic Charities, Carmelitos Housing Development, and Long Beach Community Action Partnership.



Dr. Mary McPherson,
Communication Studies

To make a donation to support the Center for Community Engagement log on to www.csulb.edu/cce and click on the "Give to the CCE" link on the right panel. For your protection all private data is encrypted so customer information is safe.

ACCOLADES AND UPDATES

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR PARTNERS AND FACULTY

Arts & Services for Disabled, Inc. and the ART Center, a creative arts program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, welcomed CSULB Art Education students this past spring. As an extension of Dr. Carlos Silveira's class, *Cross Cultural Perspectives in Art* (ART 301) the ART Center became a hands-on teaching ground for CSULB students. For 10 weeks students from CSULB developed and taught a class for students at the ART Center. Development of the class includes lesson planning, lecture, demonstration, and critique. Through various fine art techniques, the ART Center students are given the opportunity to develop leadership skills, foster a sense of self, and encourage team-building skills through collaboration. Through these opportunities, students at the ART Center demonstrate a sense of empowerment through creative expression.



Art Education student, L'lia Thomas shares a critique with ART Center artist, Hae Sung Pak.



CSULB Art Education student Colin pulls a print with ART Center artist, Amber Nething.

THINK Together is an after school program providing academic enrichment, homework assistance, dynamic physical activities, and nutrition education. They offer several internship and Service Learning opportunities providing professional skills and experience for CSULB students interested in all areas of education, human services, non-profit organizations, literacy, early childhood development, cultural diversity, psychology, language arts, sociology, liberal arts, etc. THINK Together welcomes the opportunity to partner with CSULB departments, professors, clubs and student unions to provide educational support for young students growing up in our communities, making it a reality for them to go to college and achieve their dreams.

Dr. Maythee Rojas's WST 340 (*Community Service Learning in Women's Issues*) students organized an end-of-the-semester event, *A Night with Local Social Change Agents*, to recognize and appreciate the community organizations with whom they have been completing their Service Learning projects. These organizations included U.S. Vets ADVANCE Women's Program, Domestic Violence Court Resource Referral Program, Girls Incorporated, Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske's Rosie the Riveter project, and The Center Long Beach. The students interviewed community organization representatives and presented the highlights during the event. Organizational representatives introduced the mission of their organization and discussed what they find unique in their work. W.I.N.T.E.R. Executive Director Alexandra Torres Galancid spoke about the importance of the students' experiences in fulfilling the need to develop community-oriented leaders. The event was sponsored by CSULB Center for Community Engagement and San Francisco Black Firefighters Association.



Service Learning students and community partners participate in *A Night with Local Social Change Agents*.

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Latino Voluntary Associations (a community leadership training), and we are preparing to launch a learning community for campus/community teams next fall.

Community engagement goes global through a record number of international Service Learning courses offered during winter and summer sessions. The CCE partners with the Center for International Education to support faculty efforts to integrate Service Learning into their international courses.

The CCE continues to follow CSULB's Guiding Vision to be "*changing lives by expanding educational opportunities, championing creativity, and preparing leaders for a changing world*" by supporting educational excellence and access at all levels, promoting faculty and student innovation in research, teaching and learning through Service Learning, community-based participatory research and other community engagement efforts, and by continually endeavoring to contribute to the public good, both locally and globally.

Saludos,



Dr. Juan M. Benitez
Interim Director

UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS BOOKS!

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HAS MOVED TO ACADEMIC SERVICES BUILDING, ROOM 127

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Visit us on the Web!

<http://www.csulb.edu/cce>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Center for Community Engagement wants you to save these dates:

- ◆ **Thursday, August 28,** Faculty & Community Partnerships Luncheon, 12:00-1:30 p.m., CCE Conference Room
- ◆ **Friday, September 5,** Last day to submit for Faculty Curriculum Development Workshops
- ◆ **Tuesday, September 16,** State of the Center, 12:00-1:00 p.m., CCE
- ◆ **September, TBA** Villages at Cabrillo CSULB Oasis Community Center Opening Ceremony
- ◆ **October 20-26,** 7 Days of Service, a weeklong series of service and community engagement events and activities
 - ◆ **Monday, October 20,** Kick-Off Reception, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Anatol Center
 - ◆ **Friday, October 24,** Long Beach Social Atlas
 - ◆ **Saturday, October 25,** National Make a Difference Day
- ◆ **Thursday, October 30,** First Committee for Community Collaboration (CCC) Meeting, 3:30-5:00 p.m., CCE Conference Room
- ◆ **November, TBA** Black-Brown Relations Summit
- ◆ **Friday, December 12,** Latin@ Legislative Forecast, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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Villages at Cabrillo Oasis Project

- ◆ Dr. Michael Fender
- ◆ Dr. Malcolm Finney
- ◆ Cecilia Ordoñez
- ◆ Carina Sass, Project Director

Faculty Fellows

- ◆ Dr. Gary Hytrek, CBPR
- ◆ Dr. Rigoberto Rodriguez, Community Development