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Issue #3

Academics with Service builds stronger communities

THE SERVICE LEARNING NEWSLETTER



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Faculty Focus Dr. Dave Schulz, Communication Studies

My pedagogical preoccupation with service learning springs from Cicero's twin concepts; of *vita contemplativa* (thoughtful life) and *vita activa* (active life). Cicero believed that educators should produce citizen-scholars who practiced their theories for the betterment of their communities. Incorporation of service learning projects into my curriculum performs Cicero's *vita contemplativa* and the *vita activa* simultaneously. Service learning has rejuvenated my pedagogical practice. The continual stream of concrete examples and applications from student projects has infused my lectures and influenced my scholarship. For example, I have engaged service learning in my COMM 3140 *Persuasive Messages* course through voter registration drives, in my COMM 4160 *Intercultural Communication* course through student service at The Bridge Community Center, and in my COMM 3150 *Advanced Presentational Speaking* course through mentoring projects aimed to provide at-risk high school students alternatives to gang life. These service learning projects have increased student-faculty interaction because the culture of learning becomes a partnership as students network with instructors and colleagues in

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mutually beneficial ways. For example, when students from my service learning classes ask for letters of recommendation, I am able to write about the student as I know them personally. Similarly, students have provided me with unsolicited letters of recommendation for promotion and tenure because they have grown to know me not just as teacher, but also a partner in the community. In short, service learning provides a conduit for practicing what I teach in collaboration with students and the community in a way that benefits all.

Cesar E. Chavez Day of Celebration

The Office of Service Learning participated in the eleventh annual Cesar E. Chavez Celebration on March 22, 2006. The event is a collaboration of numerous campus and community groups and sponsors. This important event honoring the life and values of Mr. Chavez was co-chaired this year by Ms. Stella Ureno, Student Support Services and Ms. Carolina Alfaro, Student Outreach and Recruitment. Our office co-sponsored the sixth annual Cesar E. Chavez Essay, Poetry and Poster contest with the Stanislaus County Office of Education, Community Trust Credit Union, and C.O.P.A.L. Over 400 entries were received from students in grades K - 12 from Stanislaus County schools. Ms. Paula Barrington-Schmidt, Director of the Writing Center, and Ms. Louisa Herrera, Director of the Tutoring Center both led the judges through the review process to select the award winning students.

This year's keynote speaker was Ms. Maria Elena Serna. Ms. Serna is a noted local community activist and educator. Ms. Serna has been awarded numerous distinctions for her community involvement. From 1968 - 1975, Ms. Serna served on the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, and in 1990, she became the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the San Joaquin Delta College Board of Trustees. Her commitment and broad experiences in community service invigorated the audience on the importance of Mr. Chavez's life work for our own future.

The evening was also graced with beautiful dancers from Grupo Folklorico de Livingston and Mariachi music from "Viva Tecalitlan." A successful silent auction received donations from a number of individuals and campus offices to help raise money for next year's event.

Dave Schulz, Ph.D. Communication Studies

Dr. Schulz concentrates his interest in Communication Studies on Rhetorical Theory and Criticism with a focus on Rhetoric of Technology and Public Memory. He earned his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University, his M.A. from University of Nevada and his B.A. from Western Washington University.



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Richard E. Cone Awarded to Ms. Julie Fox

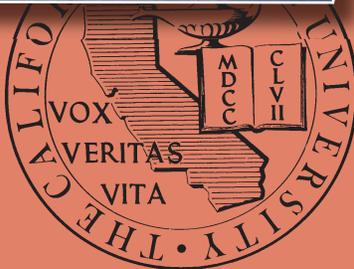
Ms. Julie Fox is the honorary recipient of the 2006 Richard E. Cone Award in Excellence in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education. This prestigious award is offered by California Campus Compact to outstanding community service professionals throughout its member universities.

As noted on the California Campus Compact website:

“Ms. Fox exemplifies the commitment, spirit, and integrity that we seek to reward and highlight. Ms. Fox is honored for efficacy and skill in catalyzing significant partnerships between CSU Stanislaus and the communities that surround the university. Her leadership on campus has nearly tripled the number of service-learning courses, and service-learning is now regularly offered to 25% of the student population. Through her university work and active involvement with numerous community boards and committees, Ms. Fox embodies an ethic of service and community-campus collaboration.”

More information about Campus Compact and the Richard E. Cone Award can be found at their website: www.campuscompact.org.

Civic Learning Institute and the First-Year Experience



The Office of the Chancellor and Learn and Serve America are sponsoring a three-day institute, June 19 - 21, 2006, to explore how to combine two important movements in higher education: the public purpose of higher education, and the special needs of first-year students. A team of innovative faculty, staff, and students have been chosen to participate in the institute. Members from the Stanislaus team include Dr. Marge Jaasma, Interim Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Dr. Jennifer Helzer, Associate Professor, Geography; Dr. Dave Colnic, Assistant Professor, Politics and Public Administration; Mr. Lee Renner, Director of First Year Programs; Ms. Clarissa Lonn, MPA, Student Leadership and Greek Life Program Advisor, Student Leadership and Development; and Ms. Julie Fox, Coordinator of the Office of

Service Learning.

The institute explores how this vital collaboration can make civic skills, knowledge, and values a part of college programs seeking to address the needs of first-year students. Our team will join nine other CSU campus teams in San Diego to assess current civic learning activities for first-year students. Each team will work with national experts to develop campus-specific ideas for service learning involving first-year students, and draft a plan to strengthen our campus's programming for all first-year students.

Upcoming Events and Programs

King-Kennedy Memorial Center Mural Unveiling Ceremony

May 24, 2006

5:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Join us on Wednesday, May 24, 2006 to unveil a dynamic and vibrant new mural designed by Modesto junior high and high school students with the assistance of local artist, Mr. Joaquin Garcia. The mural highlights how communities can work together for peaceful social change based on the principles and values expressed by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This exciting event will take place at the King-Kennedy Memorial Center at 601 S. Martin Luther King Drive in Modesto.

Service Learning Summer Institute

June 22 - 23, 2006

The 9th annual Delta Region Six *Service Learning Summer Institute* will be held on June 22 - 23, 2006. This two-day event will take place at the San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton. The Office of Service Learning is a co-sponsor with the San Joaquin County Office of Education and the Stanislaus County Office of Education. The institute prepares educators, administrators, after-school program staff, youth coordinators, and university students interested in a teaching career to incorporate service learning into their teaching pedagogy. This year's theme, *Unlocking Treasure Within Every Child*, will explore how to develop the many tools service learning provides to unlock students' full learning potential. On June 22, the institute will cover the essential elements of effective service learning. On June 23, participants will delve into a variety of specific group workshops mining proven techniques to implement service activities into their daily academics.



Junior high students design mural elements to be incorporated in the King-Kennedy Memorial Center mural in west Modesto.



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