



Faculty Stars of Service

Anthropology Provides Impactful Survey to Local Homeless Shelter

We often think of cultural anthropologists traveling to distant lands to research the lives of foreign cultures. Yet, Anthropological methods and techniques can provide valuable services to our local communities here in Stanislaus County. This was abundantly demonstrated by students in Dr. Richard Wallace's ANTH 4040: *Ethnographic Research Methods* course in the fall 2019.

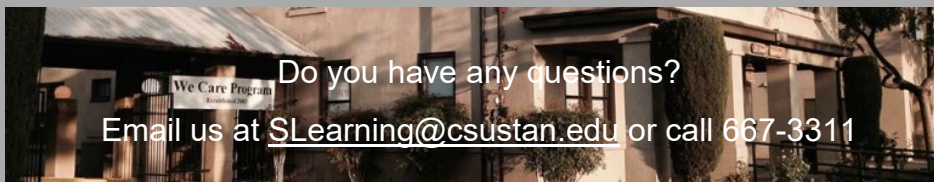
Dr. Wallace's class developed a partnership with the *We Care Program* men's homeless shelter in Turlock, CA to explore client life histories, the views and attitudes of the clients towards the shelter, and the effectiveness of the services the clients received. Students were introduced to the clients with a tour of the facility, and they volunteered their time to serve several evening meals that are provided to the clients each night. Students also served as greeters at *We Care Program* over several evenings to get familiar with the shelter and the clients.



**Dr. Richard Wallace, Professor,
Anthropology**



Back in the classroom, Dr. Wallace worked with the students to develop a comprehensive questionnaire that the students used to interview the clients. Students arranged client interviews through *We Care Program* Manager, Debbie Gutierrez, conducted during the evenings when the shelter is open. Working in teams, students interviewed 10 clients twice each over several weeks. The data collected was analyzed by the students to explore patterns in responses and identify key emerging themes through a qualitative analysis of the interview texts. At the end of the semester, students presented their findings to the *We Care Program* Board of Directors, and engaged in a lively discussion about the findings and the students' experiences.



Do you have any questions?
Email us at SLearning@csustan.edu or call 667-3311

