2020

Annual Report 2019-2020

CSUSB - Office of Community Engagement

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Introduction

21 years and counting!

CSUSB has taken bold steps to grow our engagement with the community, including the founding of our Office of Community Engagement over 21 years ago. We share the value CSUSB has placed on community engagement, both as Academic Affairs administrators and also from our personal experiences with community engagement in the classroom and through our scholarly research. We are excited for you to read about CSUSB’s recent service learning, community-based participatory research, and volunteer service programs that provide vital resources for our communities and rich educational experiences for our students.

As President Morales often says, “service is a part of the DNA of CSUSB,” and our faculty, staff and students daily demonstrate our shared commitment to student success and the vibrancy of the communities where our students live. We are very proud of the faculty, staff and students for all of their efforts on these remarkable projects, and grateful for the ongoing support and participation of our community partners and stakeholders.

CSUSB’s reputation as a community-engaged university is nationally recognized by the Carnegie Foundation, but more importantly, as a true partner with the communities who have loyally supported CSUSB for over 50 years. We are so pleased to provide you with this report and remain committed to defining our futures together through new pathways for community engagement!

Welcome to the OCE Annual Report!

I’m very pleased to present this community engagement annual report that highlights some of the important work CSUSB has been doing with our local communities this year. This annual report is special to me, as it includes a review of the 20 years that our campus has had an office to coordinate community engagement work. As I look back over the years, I can see the key to the success of the Office has been a combination of great leadership and staff, flexibility, innovative programs, the engagement of the entire campus, and a laser focus on working with communities to address their needs. From the early days of San Bernardino neighborhood makeovers to the funding of over $1 million in faculty grants to the launch of Coyote Cares Day and now to a virtual engagement program, the touchstones of our programs are to respect and learn from community wisdom and to ensure the community benefits from our efforts.

Many of the community engagement directors I know save thank you notes to read during difficult days, and I am no exception. I rediscovered this thank you card during the move from campus to my home office, and I think this quote sums up our collective hope that we are making an impact today and cultivating the next generation of volunteers:

Thank you for helping our school. I’ve very thankful for you helping our garden! I think when I grow up I will do what you do because you help schools and I think it’s cool.

-Savannah

It is our sincere pleasure to serve both the campus and community and to celebrate our collective success!

Yours in service,

Diane

Diane Podolske, Ph.D.
Director

Clare Weber, Ph.D.
Deputy Provost and Associate Provost for Academic Programs

Shari McMahan, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Vision Statement
The Office of Community Engagement fosters teaching, research, scholarship and reflection to inspire CSUSB students to be active citizens and make life-long commitments to service.

Mission Statement
The Office of Community Engagement facilitates service learning, community-based research and volunteer service by engaging students, faculty and community partners in collaborative partnerships that serve the public good. We lead the university-wide culture of community engagement as a high impact practice that contributes to student success.

Our Approach
Our approach is to empower and enable CSUSB students to engage with their communities - in class and outside of class.

What is the definition of community engagement at CSUSB?
Community engagement describes collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public good (Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching).

CSUSB Land Acknowledgement
We recognize that California State University, San Bernardino sits on the territory and ancestral land of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (Yuhaaviatam). We recognize that every member of the California State University, San Bernardino community has benefitted and continues to benefit from the use and occupation of this land since the institution’s founding in 1965.

Consistent with our values of community and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make visible the university’s relationship to Native peoples. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold California State University, San Bernardino more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.
Carnegie Foundation  
CSUSB has received the highest level of national recognition for community engagement by receiving the Carnegie Foundation’s Community Engagement Classification continuously since 2008. The Carnegie Community Engagement Classification is awarded following a process of self-study by each institution, which is then assessed by a national review committee. The classification has been the leading framework for institutional assessment and recognition of community engagement in U.S. higher education for the past 14 years.

All IN Campus Democracy Challenge  
The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting campuses as they work to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and full student voter participation. In 2019, CSUSB earned a Gold Seal from the organization for increasing college student voting rates between 40% and 49% from the 2014 midterm election to the recent 2018 midterm election.

Higher Education Civic Engagement Award  
CSUSB was named one of five universities and colleges from across the country to receive the prestigious Washington Center Higher Education Civic Engagement Award in 2012. Like the other honorees, CSUSB was chosen for the strong commitment of its students, faculty and staff on their leadership, innovation and support of community programs and projects.

President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll  
CSUSB was an eight year recipient of the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The distinction from the highest level of government recognized CSUSB’s leadership in helping to build a culture of service and community engagement on our campus and in our nation.

Meet the Team

Diane Podolske  
Director  
Diane connects CSUSB students and faculty with local nonprofits, schools and government agencies for volunteer service, service learning and community-based research projects.

Marissa Setyawan  
Community Partnership Coordinator  
Marissa is responsible for the implementation of the GivePulse database, which features easy online access to volunteer opportunities and volunteer hours database. She also oversees the CSUSB President’s Volunteer Service Award for students and the coordination of assessment data.

Joselyn Yap  
Administrative Support Coordinator  
Joselyn oversees daily administrative operations, coordinates office budgets, maintains the OCE website and creates social media marketing.

Juan Ochoa  
Administrative Coordinator for Faculty Initiatives  
Juan is the first point of contact for faculty who are engaged in community partnership development, service learning and/or community-based participatory research. He also coordinates the CSUSB President’s Volunteer Service Award program for faculty and staff.
Faculty Initiatives

Connecting with Faculty Through Grants, Workshops, and Consultations

Faculty Grants
OCE facilitates grant opportunities to support community partnership development, faculty professional development and scholarship related to community engagement, service learning, and community-based participatory research. For the 2019-2020 academic year, OCE funded 46 faculty awards for a total of over $98,000.

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Selected Service Learning Fellowship Grants

Arianna Huhn Ph.D. (Anthropology)
Museum Exhibition Development and Design
This course provided an introduction to the best practices for displaying objects and creating interpretive content for museums and galleries. Service learning students proposed new or revised local museum exhibitions, and the museums did use student ideas in their work on exhibition projects. Some of the students’ work may directly inform the final exhibition development and design!

Deirdre Lanesskog Ph.D. (Social Work)
Engagement with Native American Communities
This course focused on historical efforts to undermine tribes’ very existence, especially by removing Native American children from their families, tribes, and culture. Students explored ways tribes draw on sovereignty, cultural beliefs, and kinship networks to counter these efforts. The course was co-taught by Shirley Kippi Begay, MSW, a local expert in Indian child welfare and included guest speakers from local tribes and agencies.

Alexandra Cavallaro Ph.D. (English)
Reading, Writing, and Rising Together
CSUSB students learned alongside incarcerated students at the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco. In the class, students were invited to read and discuss a variety of texts written by currently and formerly incarcerated people. Students wrote in response to these readings, culminating in a workshop and class publication. CSUSB student interns attended and participated in the class and helped plan discussion and workshop activities.

Selected Community Based Research Grants

Claudia Davis Ph.D. (Nursing)
Impact of COVID-19
The rapid progression of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the entire United States. Although Black Americans account for only 13 percent of the US population, they represent an alarming 23 percent of COVID-19 related deaths. The high mortality rate places a heavy burden on members of this community. This pilot study will investigate the impact of COVID-19 on Inland Empire Black Americans who are battling breast cancer.

Liliana Consilk Gallegos Ph.D. (Communication Studies)
High School Students Introduced to New Technologies
This project introduced high school students to virtual reality, immersive art creation software, and innovative ways of producing materials that will be beneficial to themselves and the local communities. The exposure to new technologies helped educate and recruit freshmen into a variety of career pathways.
Richard Addante Ph.D. (Psychology)
STEM Education and Outreach
The project engaged elementary and middle school students in the local community in STEM education and outreach. CSUSB student researchers collaborated with younger students in the creation of a professional neuroscience publication for an academic journal. Elementary and middle school students were involved in the writing process and their reviews were considered before the submission of papers.

Mark Agars Ph.D. (Psychology)
Parenting in a Pandemic
The Institute for Child Development and Family Relations (ICDFR) launched Parenting in a Pandemic, a campaign utilizing social media, website, and texting technologies to provide accessible guidance for parents in the Inland region during the COVID-19 crisis and the anticipated ensuing economic challenges.

Service Learning at CSUSB

During the 2019-2020 academic year, 2,004 CSUSB students enrolled in service learning courses offered in multiple departments. There were a total of 154 service learning course sections with enrollment, a noteworthy achievement given that historically Spring Quarter has both the largest number of service learning course sections and the highest enrollment, and many of these experiences did not happen due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Community Engagement - Writing Accountability Group
OCE launched the Community Engagement-Writing Accountability Group during the 2019 Fall Quarter. The program featured weekly scheduled writing timeblocks, individualized coaching, relevant scholarly publications, and information on conference and publication opportunities. Attendees included two tenured faculty, 11 tenure-track faculty and two lecturers. The office awarded more than $5,600 during the 2019-2020 academic year in professional development funds for the participants’ scholarly productivity, with 18 articles submitted for publication and three grant applications submitted.

Year in Review
154 service learning courses offered during 2019-2020 year
2,004 CSUSB students enrolled in service learning courses
50,100 hours of service learning in the community
The Community Engagement Faculty Associates Program promotes faculty development and the scholarship of engagement by integrating community engagement with teaching, scholarship, and service. Faculty Associates increased the quantity and quality of service learning courses, developed faculty service learning competency, and enhanced community-based participatory research efforts. Additionally, Faculty Associates worked closely with OCE staff to advance institutional change to decrease barriers to community engagement and increase understanding of and reward for community engagement as meaningful professional work.

Meet the Faculty Associates

Jennifer B. Alford Ph.D. (Geography)
Faculty Associate

Jennifer B. Alford, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, a Faculty Associate for the Office of Community Engagement and a Co-Director of the Faculty Center for Excellence. She is responsible for supporting faculty with community-based research projects and the high impact practices of service-learning and project-based learning.

Teresa Dodd-Butera PhD; RN/DABAT (Nursing)
Faculty Associate

Teresa Dodd-Butera, PhD, RN/DABAT is a registered nurse and a board-certified toxicologist. She is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Nursing, and has led community-based research efforts on disaster preparedness for many years. In addition to supporting service learning and community-based research efforts, Teresa works with faculty to integrate community engagement into the retention, promotion, and tenure process.

Online One-on-one Consultations
OCE Faculty Associates offered one-on-one consultations for faculty interested in service learning or community-based research opportunities in local communities. OCE Faculty Associates suggested best practices to construct a service learning course, prepare students, work effectively with community partners, and lead effective student reflection. During research consultations, OCE Faculty Associates shared their experiences fostering collaborative community-university partnerships and designing research that produces outcomes for community benefit.

ESRI Workshops
OCE Faculty Associate Jennifer Alford partnered with ESRI and the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies to hold two on-campus interactive workshops. Headquartered in Redlands, ESRI provides geographic information system software, web GIS and geodatabase management applications. The first workshop featured an overview of ArcGIS Pro, and attendees focused on features to migrate from ArcMap, connect to a portal, publish maps and layers to the web, and utilize online data from Living Atlas. Information about ESRI internships and careers was also presented, and the possibility of future research collaborations was discussed. The following workshop provided a comprehensive introduction to advanced ArcGIS Pro features including advanced spatial analysis and 3D modeling. Faculty and student attendees will use this information to create maps, compile geographic data, analyze mapped information, share geographic information and more!

Linking CE and RPT Goals
OCE Faculty Associate Teresa Dodd-Butera provided workshops linking her professional interest in community-based disaster preparedness efforts and her teaching, research and service work. Examples were provided on how her focus on this important topic led to innovative teaching, community-based research and grant projects, faculty/student presentations and publications, a professional network, and student internship opportunities. The event featured community organization representatives and higher education professionals who shared best practices of community-university partnerships.

Work Smarter Not Harder For Your RPT
This collaborative faculty development workshop, sponsored by the Office of Community Engagement, the DEPTH Center, the Teaching Resource Center and the Office of Academic Research, provided faculty a supportive environment to craft an innovative teaching, research and community engagement plan that maximizes RPT efforts. Additionally, OCE Faculty Associate Jennifer Alford moderated a panel discussion with senior faculty members from different colleges who shared their experiences leveraging teaching, research and service opportunities to promote a cohesive plan for tenure and promotion. Knowledge hubs, focused on the three areas of the RPT document, offered faculty opportunities and information on writing accountability groups, community engagement resources, IRB assistance, research tools, online course development, and campus-based grants.

“Advice on how to minimize effort and maximize output with regard to accomplishing tasks in a short time frame was especially useful. Terrific.”
- Faculty Participant
Community Engagement Efforts

Recognizing CSUSB Faculty’s
Community Engagement Efforts

Jennifer B. Alford Ph.D. (Geography)
Trout in the Classroom

Jennifer Alford, Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, partnered with the Inland Empire Resources Conservation District (IERCD) for nearly three years on a number of projects aimed at increasing environmental education and resource conservation opportunities for students and community members.

In partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Dr. Alford and IERCD provided several “Trout in the Classroom” fish release programs which allowed students from Loma Linda and McKinley Elementary Schools to participate in scientific-based field research experiences. This program enabled students to learn about the life cycle of trout, a prominent fish species in California rivers and lakes. Students raised trout eggs in their classroom and released them into waterways to increase aquatic biodiversity. The partnership has been prominently highlighted by the Redlands Daily Facts newspaper as well as the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife social media outlets.

The “Trout in the Classroom” program has also allowed Dr. Alford to include learning experiences for both graduate and undergraduate students so that they have meaningful opportunities to work with K-12 students and program partners. Dr. Alford began her partnership with IERCD in 2017 through the support of numerous OCE grants including the “Building Community Partnerships” and “Community-Based Research Grants,” resulting in new resources for the IERCD as well as enabling Dr. Alford to build meaningful and on-going partnerships with IERCD staff.

Oraib Mango Ph.D. (World Languages and Literatures)
Power in Collaboration: College and Elementary Students for Social Justice

Dr. Oraib Mango, Professor in the Department of World Languages & Literatures, presented alongside community partner and teacher William Beshears from the Manuel A. Salinas School for the Creative and Empowerment as the partner of the Inland Empire Resources Conservation District (IERCD) for nearly three years on a number of projects aimed at increasing environmental education and resource conservation opportunities for students and community members.

The presenters shared resources that were used in this project and explored how the project engaged and appreciated of diversity through critical questioning and analysis of experiences of different racialized groups.

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Dr. Mango has received Service-Learning Fellowship and Community-Based Participatory Research grants from OCE to fund service-learning coursework, conference presentations, and community-based research. The teachers and administrators at Salinas are valued partners for this important work, and serve as co-educators for CSUSB students.

Jennifer A. Alford Ph.D. (Geography)

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Becky Talyn Ph.D. (Natural Sciences)
NSCI 310 Teach Environmental Issues to the Community

Students in NSCI 310, taught by Dr. Becky Talyn, worked collaboratively on group projects to share information about environmental issues and solutions impacting local communities. The goal of the projects was to increase the number of local residents, including families, that were knowledgeable and engaged in the environmental issues that impact their communities.

In partnership with Kimbark Elementary School teachers, NSCI 310 students developed interactive classroom presentations focused on local environmental issues and concrete ideas on how to effectively connect with neighbors and young people. Teachers and CSUSB students met to create engaging presentation outlines, which were later peer-reviewed by other students. Students then led classroom presentations in three schools and also created a flyer detailing the impacts humans have on the environment and climate. More than 270 flyers were distributed by collaborating with Rancho Verde High School in Moreno Valley, CA.

Student feedback demonstrated that this service learning course promoted student learning through collaborative work and the classroom presentation process. Teachers reported that school presentations increased their students’ engagement and knowledge about local environmental issues.

Dr. Talyn received an Establishing Community Partnership Grant from OCE to develop the school-based partnerships. Teachers at Kimbark Elementary School, Rancho Verde High School and other local schools are key partners for this collaborative learning effort.

Arianna Huhn Ph.D. (Anthropology)
Virtual Museum and Exhibition Development and Design

Museum Exhibition Development and Design is cross-listed in the departments of Anthropology and History (ANTH 376, HIST 376). The course focused on introducing students to best practices for displaying objects and offering interpretive content for museums and galleries. Students not only read about these practices but also crafted narratives, composed label text, developed interpretive frameworks, and designed case layouts.

In past years, the class has operated in collaboration with the CSUSB Anthropology Museum, helping to produce the exhibition ReCollect (2016) and several smaller exhibits featuring artifacts from Nepal on loan from CSUSB alumnus Sylvia Woodruff (2018). This year the class contributed to the development of exhibitions at the Hi Desert Museum in Yucca Valley and the Los Angeles Natural History Museum. In collaboration with the Hi Desert Museum, students worked to update mining history, gems and minerals, and entomology exhibitions. In collaboration with the Los Angeles Natural History Museum, students worked to update one Zuni carving exhibition, and to create a second exhibition on the history of patent medicine, featuring recently excavated glass bottles.

Each student worked on two projects for the first seven weeks of the quarter, and concentrated on one project for the last two weeks, ultimately developing a final portfolio which was presented to the community partner. The portfolio included an interpretive framework in which students presented their idea for an overarching theme of the exhibition, the division of content into themes, the selection of objects on display, and the narrative content, layout, and design of one grouping of objects.

The two community partners will use student-generated ideas to inform their work on the exhibition projects, with the possibility that student ideas will directly inform the final exhibition development and design!
Juan Delgado, MFA (English)
Thomas Long Ph.D. (History)

The Native Voices Poetry Festival
The Native Voices Poetry Festival was organized by Juan Delgado, Thomas Long, Ernest and June Siva, and Carolyn Horsman. Students from CSUSB’s Public History Program and English Department also partnered with the Dorothy Ramon Learning Center to support the festival. The free event featured writing and art workshops for all ages, as well as performances and cultural displays. The 2020 festival celebrated San Jacinto Peak or Aya Kaich.

Along with Cal State San Bernardino, partners with the Dorothy Ramon Learning Center for the Native Voices Poetry Festival included the Malki Museum, Heyday Books and News From Native California, Morongo School, Morongo Cultural Heritage Department, Rivers and Lands Conservancy, Banning Unified School District Indian Education Program and the Dragonfly Wind Flute Ensemble.

Thomas Long received OCE grant funding to support student research and publication costs for post-event anthology of Indigenous poetry and cultures of Southern California.

Michelle Lorimer Ph.D. (History)

Oral History Interviews
Dr. Michelle Lorimer’s Oral History course introduced students to the complexities of the current immigration and refugee crisis in the Inland Empire and around the world. The community partnered was Glocally Connected, a Riverside CA nonprofit agency, and with Dr. Selin Yildiz Nielsen, a local expert on the international refugee crisis. Dr. Nielsen co-lead preparatory class sessions and introduced students to interviewees for group oral history projects.

Students worked collaboratively with Glocally Connected to help asylum seekers, volunteers, and the nonprofit’s founders to record their own stories as radio vignettes. Students conducted four interviews with participants, and the interview audio files are stored at CSUSB, Coyote Radio, and at Glocally Connected to help immigrants/refugees and local professionals share their stories with the broader community.

Students learned about the ethical considerations of privacy, human subjects protection, interviewing survivors of trauma, and the social justice aspects of oral history in an applied setting. This project was a rich student learning experience that connected students with community partners in ways that benefited both students and members of the local immigrant community.

Dr. Lorimer received an OCE Service Learning Fellowship grant to add this important service learning project to the Oral History course.

Breanna Putman Ph.D. (Biological Sciences)

City Nature Challenge
Dr. Breanna Putman, Assistant Professor of Biology, partnered with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the California Academy of Sciences to bring the City Nature Challenge 2020 to the Inland Empire Region!

The City Nature Challenge invited the general public to contribute to the documentation of nature. Current and aspiring scientists, nature and science fans, and people of all ages and backgrounds were invited to observe and submit pictures of wild plants, animals, and fungi using the free mobile app iNaturalist. Although the COVID-19 restrictions scaled back the challenge, more than 400 contributors documented more than 8,000 observations of wild plants, animals, and fungi found in local neighborhoods, homes, backyards, and even through windows. The challenge embraced a collaborative aspect of sharing observations online with a digital community as participants documented local biodiversity while following public health guidelines of COVID-19. According to Putman, “it’s great partnering with the public because then they have a stake in their research and what are the current conservation concerns in our region and how they can help.”

Dr. Putman received an OCE Community-Based Research grant to coordinate the Inland Empire City Nature Challenge.

Outstanding Community Engagement Faculty Award
Dr. Enrique Murillo, Jr. was the recipient of the 2019 Outstanding Community Engagement Award for his deeply engaged academic work; history of community collaboration and change, especially in addressing educational equity and the specific needs of Latino education; and his leadership in raising the profile of CSUSB as an institution committed to diversity, inclusion and student success!

President Tomás Morales praised Dr. Murillo during the surprise award announcement in September 2019. “His efforts have impacted thousands of lives and inspired countless more. I just want to say personally that I have not met anyone more dedicated in my 47 years in higher education, more dedicated to the Latino community,” Morales said.

Congratulations to Dr. Enrique Murillo, Jr. for this well-deserved recognition!
Student-Focused Programs

Our programs assist student discovery in the development of passion and talents, while defining their skills and understanding of service and active citizenship.
Engagement Expo

The Engagement Expo was a collaborative effort between the Office of Community Engagement and the Office of Student Engagement. It offered a one-stop shop where students saw a holistic picture of all of the engagement and involvement opportunities at CSUSB both inside and outside the classroom.

The event assisted CSUSB students in identifying meaningful volunteer service opportunities ranging from short-term volunteer service to in-depth service learning internships. The Engagement Expo also helped students develop a better understanding of local nonprofits and the services they provide for underserved and disadvantaged communities. Student clubs and Greek organizations presented students with opportunities to engage with campus and academic departments, develop as leaders, and learn new skills that will help them now and after graduation. This year, 389 CSUSB students attended the event, and a student’s comment summed up the event: “The best part of the experience was getting to know about other organizations and also talking to and meeting new people. I think everything was there at the Expo!”

31 Nonprofit Agencies
389 Student Check-Ins

Camp SERVE

Camp SERVE was a collaborative 3-day volunteer service trip sponsored by the Office of Community Engagement and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Centered around service and social awareness, the December 2019 Camp SERVE gave students the opportunity to participate in local service projects with Inland Empire nonprofits. Students visited three communities in three days, taking part in volunteer service, identifying additional ways to serve communities and exploring ways to make a difference in the world. The activities included fun and engaging team-building exercises at the CSUSB Leadership Challenge Center, volunteering at a local park’s holiday celebration (complete with a visit from Santa himself), collecting native plant seeds at a national forest, and volunteering with Martha’s Village and Kitchen in Indio, CA.

We asked a student what was the best part of their experience. Student responded, “The whole event, the experience was awesome - I loved it.”

3 Cities - Big Bear, Palm Desert and San Bernardino
17 CSUSB Student Volunteers
153 Hours of Service

COVID-19 Resource Guide

OCE’s priority is the safety and well-being of our CSUSB campus community and of our local community, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. A resource guide, based on national and local guidance, was created to provide health information, basic needs resources and volunteer service options for those who need service or want to serve. The resource guide was shared on the CSUSB website, campus newsletters, Blackboard, social media and was highlighted in a resource toolkit curated by Compact.org.
9/11 National Day of Service
The September 11th National Day of Service is the culmination of an effort launched in 2002 by 9/11 family members and support groups. The national day of service was established as a way to honor the sacrifice of those who were lost and those who united in response to the tragedy. OCE, CSUSB Recreation and Wellness Center and the Veterans Success Center coordinated a volunteer experience with 15 students, faculty and staff to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. The volunteer event was a part of Brush of Kindness, a program that helps low-income homeowners impacted by age, disability and family circumstances with assistance in maintaining the exterior of their homes. CSUSB volunteers helped revitalize the appearance of the neighborhood by providing homes with a fresh coat of paint.

15 CSUSB Student Volunteers
60 Hours of Service
Student Quote - “The best part of my experience was when the man came outside to see his newly painted house. He was very grateful and thankful for our service.”

Make A Difference Day
San Bernardino Campus Event
National Make A Difference Day is an annual volunteer service event where CSUSB students unite with a common mission to improve the lives of others. This year, 67 CSUSB students – representing OCE, Special Events and Guest Services, and the Office of Student Engagement – packed 1,250 boxes of Thanksgiving meals for distribution in San Bernardino County. Participating students learned more about the nonprofit, Community Action Partnership, and learned about opportunities to address food insecurity by volunteering with the agency.

67 CSUSB Student Volunteers
268 Hours of Service
1,250 families received a free Thanksgiving meal

Palm Desert Campus Event
Alongside the nonprofit agency Together We Rise, more than 80 PDC students, faculty and staff filled and decorated 85 duffel bags for foster children. The hand-decorated duffel bags were complete with a teddy bear, hygiene kit, and warm blanket. PDC Freshmen participants learned about the experiences of foster children, the work of the local nonprofit Together We Rise, and received information on ways to get involved in their local communities.

80 CSUSB Student Volunteers
160 Hours of Service

PDC STUDENT QUOTE - “The best part was that we’re able to make an impact in their lives and bring joy into their hearts. Even if this seems like something small, it could really make a difference in their lives.”
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service introduces and connects students to local communities and the concept of social responsibility. This annual day of service is intended to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King’s vision of a “Beloved Community.”

OCE and the CSUSB Recreation and Wellness Center coordinated a volunteer experience with L.A. Works on Monday, Jan. 20 for this National Day of Service. The beautification project for Orville Wright Middle School provided some much-needed improvements for the school, which recently converted from a high school to a middle school STEAM magnet campus. Over 20 CSUSB students and staff made Monday a “day on, not a day off” by serving alongside 1,350 volunteers to build and paint 30 benches, paint 27 murals and 606 feet of lockers, landscape, and paint hallways throughout the school. We asked our CSUSB volunteers what made this day memorable and one said that “the best part was teaming up with others to create something special for the students.” We hope this encourages our CSUSB students to continue to leave their paw print on the community and also to continue the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In total, CSUSB contributed to more than 100 hours of service to Orville Wright Middle School.

20 CSUSB Student Volunteers
100 Hours of Service

Virtual National Volunteer Week
Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the postponement of Coyote Cares Day, OCE held a virtual National Volunteer Week celebration to highlight the impact of volunteer service, the power of volunteers to tackle society’s greatest challenges, and volunteers’ ability to build resilient communities.

OCE launched a call for volunteer spotlights through email and social media, encouraging members of the university to share their current volunteer experiences. Submissions included a faculty member who made personal protective equipment for local healthcare workers; a staff member who sewed over 250 face masks for campus and local community members; and a student who delivered food and supplies to elderly neighbors.

The outpouring support of CSUSB and community volunteers, rising to the COVID-19 challenge, was truly heartwarming.

Thank you to everyone who left their paw prints in the community!
CSUSB President’s Volunteer Service Award

The CSUSB President’s Volunteer Service Award (CPVSA) is an annual recognition of volunteer service from CSUSB’s President Tomás D. Morales. The three-tier award (Gold, Silver and Bronze level) provides recognition for CSUSB campus community members’ volunteer efforts that contribute to the public good.

This year, 30 Palm Desert Campus students were recognized for contributing a total of 1,735 service hours, and 114 San Bernardino Campus students were recognized for contributing a total of 7,233 service hours. Six staff members were also recognized with a CPVSA award.

Traditionally, OCE hosts a ceremony recognizing volunteers for outstanding volunteer service. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, award letters and medallions were mailed to students’ homes to celebrate their noteworthy achievements.

Congratulations to all CPVSA award recipients!

Honors Program Packing Party

OCE, CSUSB University Honors Program and Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County partnered to help bring a packing party to campus. More than 50 Honors students volunteered to pack hundreds of emergency food boxes that were distributed to families and individuals experiencing food insecurity in San Bernardino County. The Packing Party engaged and educated volunteers about hunger and food insecurity in San Bernardino County while serving the community. Collectively, Honors students contributed more than 125 hours of volunteer service – all in one afternoon!
2019 - 2020
Community Engagement Impact

- $1,833,239* Economic Benefit to the Community
  *Value of a volunteer hour calculated by the Independent Sector: $29.95
- 61,210 Hours of Service
  - San Bernardino Campus contributed 57,575 hours of service
  - Palm Desert Campus contributed 3,635 hours of service
- 2,004 Students Enrolled in Service Learning Courses
- 154 Service Learning Course Sections Offered
- 150 Volunteers Recognized for CSUSB President’s Volunteer Service Award
- 46 Faculty were Awarded Grants to Further CSUSB’s Community Engagement
- $98,000 in Faculty Grants Awarded

Celebrating 20 Years of Service

Community Engagement Facts
- Almost 300 Unique Faculty-Community Partnerships in 20 Years
- 208 Unique Community-Engaged Faculty
- $1,096,215 awarded in Faculty Grants
- Service hours from 2015-2020 valued at $12,388,215

Service Learning Enrollment 2005 - 2020
This map displays partnerships formed between CSUSB faculty and partner organizations throughout OCE’s 20 years of service to the community. Community partners include nonprofits, schools and government agencies. All of the partnerships displayed were supported with grants offered by the Office of Community Engagement (formerly named Community-University Partnerships).

May 2019
20th Anniversary
The Office of Community Engagement celebrates 20 years of service to the campus and community!

April 2018
New Outstanding Community Engagement Faculty Award
OCE awards the first Outstanding Community Engagement Faculty Award to Annie Buckley for her state-wide work with the Community Based Art and Prison Arts Collective programs.

September 2017
Faculty Center of Excellence
The Faculty Center for Excellence, created with guidance from the CSUSB Strategic Plan, hosts a grand opening and launches a robust calendar of programs. OCE Faculty Associate Cherstin Lyon serves as a co-director and the FCE becomes a key location for faculty professional development on teaching, research and service.

April 2016
Little Free Library Program
CSUSB students constructed, painted and installed Little Free Library boxes at eight San Bernardino parks and community centers. The Libraries were filled with donated books for children to take a book, read it and return it or to donate a different book. OCE staff replenish books at each library, especially during summer months when school libraries are closed.

January 2015
The Obershaw DEN Founded
The DEN Campus Food Pantry, now known as the Obershaw DEN, opens with financial assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and campus donations of canned goods and snacks.

June 2014
Voter Registration at SOAR
Incoming freshmen students participated in a service project and voter registration drive, resulting in 300 students registering to vote, and four nonprofit agencies benefiting from the students’ service.

June 2013
New Office Name and Home
The Community - University Partnerships and Service Learning Institute transitioned to a new name, the Office of Community Engagement, in the Division of Academic Affairs - Provost’s Office.

April 2013
Coyote Cares Day
Community-University Partnerships hosted the inaugural Coyote Cares Day of Service for 250 students. President Morales has faithfully attended all Coyote Cares Day events.

October 2012
CSUSB Receives National Civic Engagement Award
CSUSB was named one of five universities and colleges from across the country to receive the prestigious Washington Center and the New York Life Foundation Higher Education Civic Engagement Award.
July 2012
Stand Up for San Bernardino
CUP launched a three-prong program in response to the City of San Bernardino’s bankruptcy filing: a paid student internship program for the San Bernardino government and nonprofit agencies, a student organization mini-grant to fund San Bernardino service projects, and a faculty grant program for academic or research projects to benefit San Bernardino residents.

October 2011
STEM Transfer Student Success
San Bernardino Valley College and CUP received a Title III grant, PASS GO, to promote service learning, enhanced advising and career readiness experiences for STEM transfer students. The PASS GO program was crafted from the highly successful Title V CoyoteCareers program, which was a U.S. Department of Education exemplar of excellence and resulted in a Corporation for National and Community Service-sponsored publication.

August 2010
President’s Volunteer Service Award program
CUP launched a service award program for individual students or student organizations to receive a bronze, silver or gold award pin, certificate, and Presidential letter for completing a specified number of hours of service during the academic year.

November 2008
Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement
CSUSB received the national Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement for both Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships. This elective classification was renewed in 2015 for the full 10-year accreditation.

October 2007
PDC Community-University Educational Summit
Dr. Cynthia Schreihans (Management) and PDC Service Learning Coordinator, led the development of the first Community University Educational Summit. The event invited students, faculty and staff to learn more about the impact community engagement has on the Coachella Valley workforce, health care and economic prosperity.

October 2007
DisAbility Sports Festival
CUP was a founding partner for the DisAbility Sports Festival, including years of event volunteer coordination and the funding of several grants to Dr. Aaron Moffett (Kinesiology) to support two new service learning courses related to this regional event.

2006 – 2007
President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll
CSUSB was among nearly 500 institutions recognized for excellence in supporting exemplary service programs and raising the visibility of effective practices in campus community partnerships. CSUSB received recognition every year for the nine-year program.

August 2006
Inland Empire Service Learning Scholarship Program
Hands on Inland Empire, an initiative of Inland Empire United Way, contributed $10,000 to CUP to create a scholarship program for juniors, seniors and graduate students who completed over 100 hours of service during an academic quarter, typically through an internship with a nonprofit agency.

January 2006
MLK Grant Received from Best Buy Children’s Foundation
More than 100 CSUSB students provided 388 hours of service for Martin Luther King Day at Central City Lutheran Mission, followed by a community dinner and speaker. The MLK Day of Service event was the kick-off for a series of educational programs on nonviolent problem-solving for minority and underserved middle-school students.

October 2004
Make a Difference Day
CUP collaborated with nonprofit, faith-based and business partners to offer CSUSB’s first Make a Difference Day event. More than 135 CSUSB students volunteered for a San Bernardino neighborhood beautification project.

March 2003
Alternative Spring Break
CUP and the Department of Housing and Residential Life partner to host the first service learning spring break in San Francisco.

October 2002
Economic Gardening
CUP provides community partnership and financial support for Project Information Technical Assistance for Business (PITAB). This project led an “economic gardening” initiative that fostered small local business growth with the use of GIS software and databases to find and cultivate new market opportunities.

February 2001
Guardian Scholar Program
CUP awards Undergraduate Studies initial funding to research and launch a Guardian Scholar Program to help foster youth gain access to higher education.

April 2000
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
Janet Courts (Accounting) receives CUP funding to formalize a service learning course for students to assist low-income community members with their income tax preparation.

May 1999
CUP Institute Founded
Community-University Partnerships (CUP) was founded by President Al Karnig and the Faculty Senate. The new CUP Institute shared SMSU office space with Student Leadership and Development (now the Office of Student Engagement.) Richard Eberst (Health Science) and Teresa Morris (Social Work) are named CUP Co-Directors.
How will you leave your pawprint?