



## Office of Community Collaboration (OCC)/ Community Engagement Center (CEC)

# HISTORY



Office of Community Collaboration  
"Connecting Community and Classroom"

### Pre-1996

Charlotte Cook, Professor of Special Education, and the Office of Community Collaboration's (OCC) first director, recalled that: "In 1995, the roots for my interest in collaborative work began with a project, the CSUS Collaboration Institute, which brought together faculty and students from a variety of disciplines, all of which serve children and families, and also worked with schools. The idea of the Institute was to bring people together to better understand what each discipline does to facilitate better working relationships across disciplines with the ultimate goal of serving the needs of children and their families." At the same time, she said: "I was reading a description of the Sacramento State student body in 1995 in Nancy Shulock's office. We were reviewing the University Strategic Plan from the late 1980s that was undergoing its once every 10 year's update. Some statistics about our students grabbed my attention: 60-70 % came from high schools within 25 miles of the campus; nearly 80% came from northern California, AND most of these stayed in the Sacramento Region and made their lives here. I exclaimed to Nancy, 'These demographics should be reflected in our curriculum, the University mission, our Strategic Plan, and faculty RTP/FMI!' I suddenly saw that national/international universities could be seen as different, but NOT more desirable. At Sacramento State we educate students who are mostly from our region. What a terrific opportunity! We can affect the region's future by bringing students face to face with the region's issues and challenges, its people, government entities, service organizations, major employers, etc." Cook realized that we should capitalize on the fact that Sacramento State students were from the area and would stay in the area after they graduated and focus educational efforts on linking the campus to the Sacramento community region.

### Earliest inklings of the need for an office that focused on community engagement:

Nancy Shulock, former Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, said: "As I think about the start of what was then called the Office of Community Collaboration, it takes me back several years prior, to the founding of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities in 1989. I found that movement so significant for Sacramento State because it was positing a new national model by which universities like ours could aspire to excellence by committing to orient their instruction, research, and public service to the service of their regions, and not by imitating national research universities that are far less of their locations. The founding declaration of the organization declared that 'We, the leaders of urban and metropolitan universities, declare that our future as knowledge organizations will continue to be forged by sustained, reciprocal engagement with our cities.' Further, the lead article in the inaugural issue of the organization's journal set forth the vision of the new model: 'A metropolitan university is defined first and foremost by its philosophy. It accepts its relationship to the surrounding metropolitan region as its essential rationale, its reason for being.'"

### 2014

Dana Kivel, Professor of Recreation, Parks & Tourism Administration, begins as Interim Director and in 2015 becomes part-time Director of CEC; Dean Sheree Meyer advocates for more robust funding for the CEC which enables us to hire a full-time Partnership/Program Coordinator, Francine Redada; and a full-time Administrative Support Coordinator, Thamsyne Brown.

- CEC renovates its office space in Library 4028 and creates a conference room that is used by faculty, students and community members.
- CEC begins work on CECconnect, a database for tracking students doing service learning, community service and internships.
- We continue to train faculty in Service Learning – in 2014-2015, we trained six new faculty and in 2016, we have 15 faculty joining us for a year to learn how to incorporate Service Learning into their courses.
- In the spring of 2015, we co-sponsored the play, Amnesia, with CAMP, the Multicultural Center, Pride Center, Women's Resource Center, The Full Circle Project, First Year Experience Programs, The College of Continuing Education, College of Arts & Letters, Department of Theatre & Dance, Festival of the Arts, Rabbi Mona Alfi, and Congregation B'Nai Israel. The play focuses on the challenges that 19th century Jews from Europe experienced and how these same experiences are felt by immigrants living on our southern borders in Arizona.
- Constitution & Civic Engagement Week hosts Labor Activist Dolores Huerta with UNIQUE; and
- Partners with NeighborWorks Sacramento to participate in their annual "Paint the Town" event where more than 40 students painted a house in Oak Park.

### 2015

CEC rolls out CECconnect in the fall; works with faculty across campus to pass a policy on Academic Internships and Service Learning, thereby allowing Procurement and Contract Services to use one agreement instead of two for students who may be interested in doing service learning and/or an academic internship at a particular community partner site.

- Writing Partners @ Sac State continues to grow – in the fall of 2015, 595 elementary school students were partnered with more than 450 Sac State Students.

### 2016

We recently organized our largest Alternative Break Program to date. We partnered with Sacramento Area Congregations Together (A.C.T.) and had 99 students join us to participate in door-to-door Get Out the Vote canvassing in South Oak Park. Students knocked on more than 700 doors, spoke with more than 360 people and registered 50 new voters in this historically low voter-turnout community.

- Today, more than 70 Service Learning courses are offered each academic year, with approximately 2000+ students enrolled in these courses and they contribute, on average, approximately 50,000 hours of service each year at 114+ community partner sites.
- New Mission and Vision Statements unveiled at May 5, 2016 event:
  - » Mission – To engage members of the Sacramento State campus through their educational experiences to become aware of and respond to local and global community concerns through Service Learning, Volunteerism and Academic Internships.
  - » Vision – To create a campus climate that promotes community awareness and involvement and supports students to become civically-minded graduates who are actively engaged in making a difference both locally and globally.
- Assistant Professor Jamie Hoffman, Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration, and an incoming graduate student, will be travelling to Fiji this May with a group of students and faculty from CSU Fresno to participate in Madventure's Summer 2016 international service-learning experience which is being partially funded by the Chancellor's Office.

### 2008

Dean Sheree Meyer, then Chair of the Department of English, works with Macias and CEC to establish the One Book Program with financial support from a grant from Wells Fargo. The first book for the program was: "Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of growing up Iranian in America" and the inaugural event was a huge success. The One Book program continues under the leadership of Professor Hellen Lee, Department of English, who serves as the program's Coordinator.

- Provost Joe Sheley asks CEC to oversee activities to commemorate Constitution Day, which celebrates September 17th, the date on which the Constitution was signed in 1787. The program continues to this day and is now known as "Constitution & Civic Engagement Week (CACE)."
- CEC receives President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

### 2009

Macias receives funding to bring Americorps Students in Service to Sacramento State to work with various CEC service-related programs and projects.

### 2010

President Alexander Gonzalez and Provost Joseph Sheley wanted the campus to apply for the Carnegie Community Service Classification. Professor Jana Noel, working as the Provost's Fellow for Community and Civic Engagement, and in conjunction with Macias at the CEC, gathered data and submitted the proposal for Sacramento State. In 2010, we received the Carnegie Community Service Classification and it is in effect until 2020.

- CEC, with Jana Noel, hosted the first-ever Sacramento State Community-Based Research Conference, with the conference theme of "Coming Together to Inform and Advance Change." Associate Provost Mike Lee gave the opening introduction. The Conference provided workshops on conducting community-based research, finding funding for community partnerships, and included posters and presentations by University-community research teams. Main themes of the presentations were in the areas of Community-Led Research on Issues Related to Youth; Student-Led Research to Benefit Community; Health Issues in College and Community; and Mobilizing for High School Student Success.

### 2013

Macias retires from the Community Engagement Center and promptly pursues a variety of leisure activities.

#### Service Learning Project Highlight

- Faculty: Vanessa Arnaud (Honors 103: Civic Engagement, Service Learning: "Pursuing the Public Good" and Community Partner: Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH), Sacramento  
"Honors students produced and created a video to inspire others to use non-judgement in providing services to victims of commercial sexual exploitation and to understand some reasons why local women are involved in sex-work, remain trapped, and have a difficult time escaping it. A Cal Humanities grant funded the project."



## 1997

Several current and former Presidents unite and challenge the nation to think anew at The Presidents' Summit for America's Future. Presidents Clinton, George H. W. Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford and first lady Nancy Reagan convene to discuss the nation's pressing social issues and discuss their role in meeting the needs of the country and world through voluntary action. Sacramento State President Donald Gerth asked Charlotte Cook and Darrell Steinberg, then a member of the Sacramento City Council, and currently a mayoral candidate in Sacramento, to attend the Summit. Cook also visited the Portland State campus that was nationally known for its work with community service and service learning. Their motto, she said, was: "Let knowledge serve the city" with the implicit understanding that the university is investing in you and you can contribute to this community.

### Service Learning Project Highlights

- **Strategic Planning** – Students conducted interviews, analyzed data and drafted strategic plans for non-profit community organizations with a focus on community health.
- **Communications Planning** – Students analyzed communications flow for a non-profit organization with programs at over 50 school sites, and recommended changes in the communication system.
- **Restoration Ecology** – Students assessed damage to river banks from flood waters, developed and began implementation of a restoration plan.
- **Cost/Benefit Analysis** – Students conducted cost/benefit analysis for programs of public benefit organizations.
- **Mentoring and Tutoring** – Students served as mentors to 1st time juvenile offenders and as tutors to elementary school pupils at risk for reading failure.

## 1998

Cook and Shulock work together on the 1998 university strategic plan. Dr. Shulock wrote: "The first Sacramento State Strategic Plan, in 1994, included an emphasis on the "public life of the university" but it wasn't until the second edition, in 1998, that the corresponding vision and goals for the university really began to take shape. OCC was the first institutional entity to reflect that goal and was instrumental, through its energetic early leaders, in opening up the university's resources to the region while recognizing the richness of the region as a learning laboratory for its students and faculty. This was a major new undertaking for Sacramento State then and the possibilities for engaging constructively with our dynamic region have only grown since then."

- Cook worked with other faculty to help develop the first campus policy on Service learning – FS 98-58, effective 10-22-98.

**Definition:** Community Service-learning courses and/or course components include three essential elements. They:

1. provide meaningful community service with public benefit organizations and programs
2. require structured reflection on the relationship of that service experience to academic course content
3. promote civic and social responsibility.

### Service Learning Project Highlight

Faculty: Doreen Stabinsky (Environmental Studies), Lorie Hammond (Teacher Education), Sue Heredia (Bilingual/Multicultural Education) and Community Partner: Evergreen Elementary School, West Sacramento

The Office of Community Collaboration offered mini-grants for professors to fund various service learning projects at Evergreen Elementary School. Environmental science students built vegetable beds and compost bins, identified local pests and created a butterfly garden. Student teachers use the gardens as part of a science class, participated in after school tutoring and helped elementary school students document stories about their lives.

## 1999

"On July 15, 1999, California Governor Gray Davis called on the three public systems of higher education in California to work toward the development of a community service requirement for graduation. The Governor stated that the primary purpose of his initiative would be to strengthen an ethic of service among graduates of California universities. . .

- Whereas, the Academic Senate CSU, the California State Student Association, and the CSU Advisory Group on Community Service have carefully studied the place of community service and service learning in the undergraduate-education experience; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, by the Trustees of the California State University, that the Chancellor require each CSU president to ensure that all students have opportunities to participate in community service, service learning (deemed academically appropriate by faculty) or both; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees, through the Chancellor, endorse campus efforts to make service an expectation, condition, or requirement for the undergraduate-education experience; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the Chancellor report to the Board of Trustees, on an annual basis, CSU's increasing efforts to provide those opportunities to all students.

## 2000

Sheila Macias, having spent most of her career in the non-profit sector, and with a background in Social Work, is hired by OCC to further their work around service learning – linking campus and community for mutual benefit. Macias, named as the Community Partnerships Coordinator, helped to create the structure for the Office of Community Collaboration – to move it from a loosely affiliated group of faculty engaged in Service Learning, to an office that supports faculty, but that also addresses issues of liability and risk management. She helped to establish systems to begin tracking faculty and students doing Service Learning. Under Macias' leadership, more community-service programs are developed: Sac State Serves, later named Sac State Volunteers; and Alternative Break @ Sac State.

- The Governor's Call to Service helps to fund the OCC with a grant for more than \$100,000 for several years.
- With this funding, OCC developed 17 new Service Learning courses in 2000-2001; 15 new courses in 2001-2002; and 15 new courses in 2002-2003.
- Cook convened and Professor Jana Noel, Education, served as facilitator of the Service Learning Scholars Group, a network to enable faculty to:
  - » Complete research requirements without giving up Service Learning
  - » Facilitate collaborative research
  - » Integrate teaching and scholarship
  - » Advance knowledge about Service Learning and about the performance of the Office of Community Collaboration

Some of the early members of this group included: Ruth Ballard, Biological Sciences; Nick Evaggeopoulos, Management Information Science; Maureen Smith, Kinesiology and Health Science; and Lynn Tashiro, Physics.

### Service Learning Project Highlights

- INTD 127C – Methods and Materials of Interior Construction
  - » Faculty: Jill Pable and Community Partner: International Interior Design Association – Sacramento ChapterStudent teams researched and analyzed information regarding advanced topics in interior design. They sifted through competing vendor and other information to produce an unbiased, accurate accounting of a new product, process, or growing trend with interior construction.

## 2000 (cont.)

- COMS 100B – Critical Analysis Message
  - » Faculty: Mark Stoner and Community Partner: Community Services Planning CouncilPublic benefit organizations were "clients" for students learning to critically analyze text messages (pamphlets, brochures) in relation to its stated purposes and context in which it is used.

## 2001

Office of Community Collaboration helped to organize the First Annual Day of Service for Communities Engaged in Service and Renewal (C.E.S.A.R. Chavez Day). Macias enlisted the help of Kathy Martinez, adjunct faculty from the Department of Recreation & Leisure Studies, to assist in recruiting more than 300 students to participate in this campus-wide day of service. Today, Associated Students, Inc., oversees Cesar Chavez Day activities and events.

- Service Learning Scholars Group convenes its "Inaugural Workshop" on January 22, 2001

### Service Learning Project Highlight

- In the Fall 2001, the Ethnic Studies Department at California State University, Sacramento, Hiram Johnson High School and Healthy Start collaborated on an Ethnic Studies Service Learning Program to identify and address the emerging social and academic needs of students in K-12 schools
- GERO 103 – Gerontology Practice  
Faculty: Nancy Schier-Anzelmo and Community Partner: Leisure Manor  
Students increased their understanding in case management and how it guides the work of professional service providers.

## 2002

Sacramento State President Gerth convened a meeting to discuss Cook's proposal to establish a faculty award for contributions to the community, the award we now know as the: "Faculty Outstanding Community Service Award". Cook's rationale included the following points:

- Sacramento State has established RTP-related awards in teaching, research and scholarship, and service to the university but not service to the community.
- Research through the Faculty Scholar's group revealed that one of the key barriers to faculty participation in Service Learning was the lack of institutional recognition in terms of RTP.
- "We have colleagues who have spent years building community programs and have, at the same time, expanded educational opportunities for students. There is no university award that recognizes their accomplishments."
  - » Twenty-eight faculty signed onto this memo and ultimately, they were successful in the creation of this University-wide recognition.
- Cook and other faculty members across campus lobbied for changes to the University Appointment, Retention, Tenure and Promotion Policy (UATP) that incorporates community service as a part of the evaluative criteria at all levels – teaching, research and service.

## 2003

The 65th Street Corridor Tutoring/Mentoring Program is created. This Service-Learning partnership between the Department of Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State University, Hiram Johnson High School (HJHS) and Will C. Wood Middle School (WCW) is designed to engage students for the empowerment of the youth and community along the 65th Street Corridor in Sacramento.

### Service Learning Project Highlight

Robin Dattel, Professor of Geography, began working with students in her field classes to gather oral histories and do archival research about individuals and businesses in Oak Park to create a walking tour booklet, published by the Center for Sacramento History, which is unveiled at a community event in October 2010.

## 2004

Service Learning Project Highlight

- Faculty: Gwen Amos, Johanna Latty, Jill Pable (Design Department) and Community Partner: Salvation Army's Center of Hope Social Services Center, Sacramento  
"In collaboration with Salvation Army's Center of Hope Social Services Center, students majoring in graphic design, interior design and photography offered two different design plans to turn the current one-floor, 80-bed homeless shelter into a three-story, 200-bed community to help people in crisis get back on their feet."

## 2005

Cathy Gabor, faculty member in English, works with OCC to launch Writing Partners, a collaborative letter exchange between 5th grade elementary school students and Sac State Students (Program is beginning its 11th year and is known as Writing Partners @ Sac State).

- Several faculty members assist with the work of the OCC – Greg Kim-Ju, Rachel August, Vanessa Arnaud and Todd Miglaccio assist with ongoing program evaluation, and developing a Service Learning designation for student transcripts.

## 2006

Cook retires and Macias moves from being the Partnership/Program Coordinator to becoming Administrative Director of the OCC.

- Macias continues to submit and receive grants from the Chancellor's Office Call to Service and continues to create and expand mechanisms for tracking students doing service learning and to protect students and faculty in terms of liability and risk management issues.
- OCC hires Brendan McVeigh as the new Community Partnerships Coordinator.

## 2007

Macias, working with Dana Kivel, then Chair of Recreation, Parks & Tourism Administration, and Rachel August, Professor of Psychology, proposes to change the name of OCC to Community Engagement Center (CEC) to more accurately convey the work of the Center.

- Associate Vice Provost Mike Lee and Provost Joe Sheley encourage and support the creation of the first Alternative Break@Sac State Program. Brendan McVeigh, from 2006 until his departure in 2010, oversees this very successful program and other community service programs. The first Alternative Break@Sac State program began with students volunteering to work with Habitat for Humanity.
- Since then, CEC has coordinated 34 Alternative Break events for students.