



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



SACRAMENTO STATE
Community Engagement Center



Annual Report 2025-2026

California State University, Sacramento Library 4028

www.csus.edu/cec

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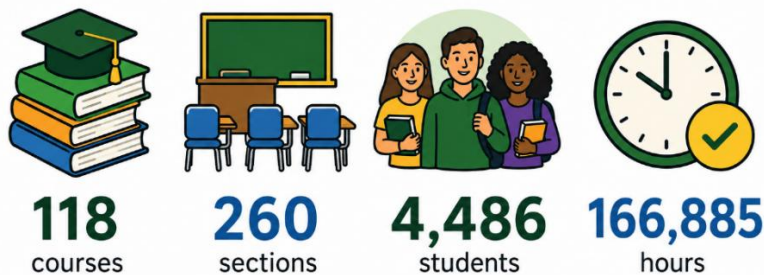
What does the Community Engagement Center Do?

- The Community Engagement Center (CEC) provides overall coordination of experiential learning at Sac State.
- Experiential learning includes credit-bearing academic internships and community-engaged learning (CEL) courses and community service (volunteerism).
- CEL includes service learning, curricular community-engaged learning, and community-engaged research/creative activity (CERCA).

The CEC:

- Guides faculty in developing experiential learning courses and CERCA projects
- Pilots explicitly embedding durable career skill development in community-engaged learning and CERCA courses
- Gathers experiential learning data via the CalState S4 database (aka CEC Connect)
- Manages Community Learning Agreement requests/renewals with community agencies in collaboration with Procurement and Contract Services
- Supports faculty/depts with finding community partners
- Leads select community service and civic engagement programs
- Collaborates with other units on campus, such as the Career Center and multiple colleges/departments regarding experiential learning programs
- Administers the Robert S. Nelsen Civic Engagement Grant program

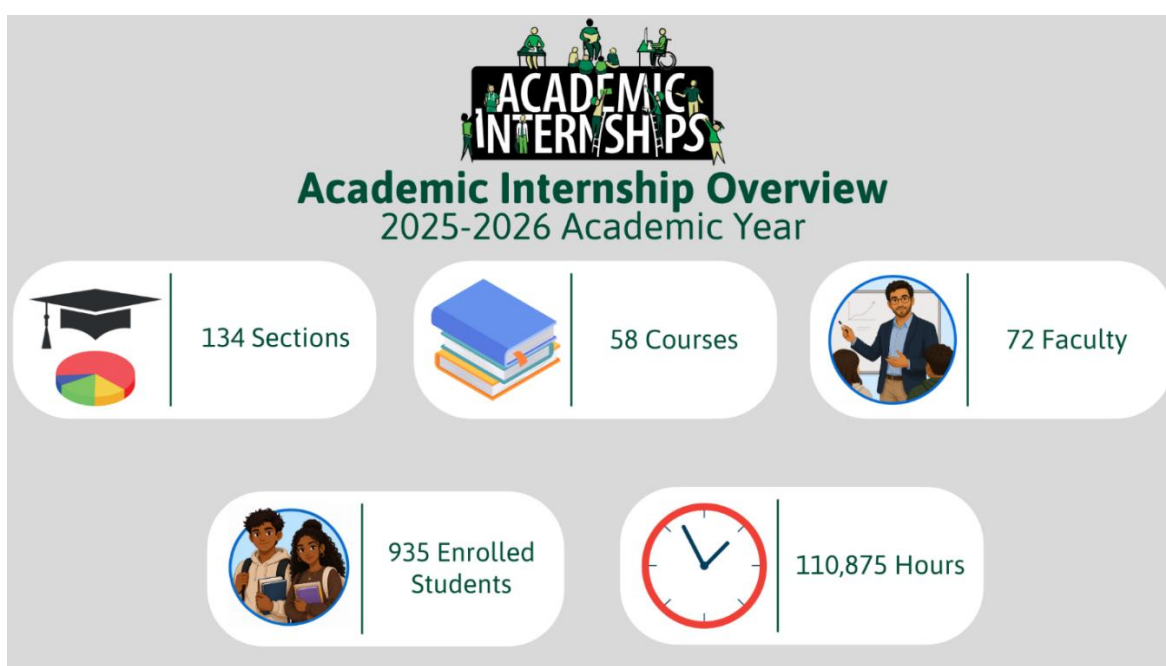
Experiential Learning Course Data Summary for 2025-26



Course Type	# Courses	# Sections	# Students	# Hours Served
Academic Internships	58	134	935	110,875
Service-Learning Courses	32	83	2,258	49,100
Curricular Community- Engaged Learning Courses	13	20	498	3,151
Writing Partners only	11	17	782	2,689
CERCA Courses	4	6	13	1,070
TOTALS	118	260	4,486	166,885

Academic Internship Courses

- Credit-bearing internships include on- and off-campus experiential learning activities designed to serve approved educational purposes by offering students experience in business, non-profit or government settings.
- For every one unit of academic credit received, students work 45 hours. Academic Internships may be paid or unpaid. Some university departments/majors require an internship while others are elective.
- **Students shared** that their internships provide high-quality supervision, professional mentoring and networking, skill development in communication, and opportunities directly connected to their career goals.



Academic Internship Courses Offered in 2025-26 (with lead faculty)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. ACCY 195 (Catlin, Roberts, Mubako, Panggabean, Roberts, Deng) | 9. BIO 195M (Mulligan, McDonald, Gilkerson) |
| 2. ANTH 195A/C (Murphy, Fisher, Scarry) | 10. CE 195 (Merayyan) |
| 3. ANTH 278 (Hens) | 11. COMS 195 (Stitt, Pollard) |
| 4. ART 195 (Miller, Williams) | 12. CRJ 195 (Escobar) |
| 5. ATIC 195 (Zierfuss-Hubbard) | 13. CSC 195/A, 295 (Ouyang) |
| 6. BIO 124 (Barclay) | 14. ECON 195 (Wang) |
| 7. BIO 195 (LaForgia, McDonald, Gonzalez-Orta, Watters, Gilkerson) | 15. EEE 195/A (Markovic) |
| 8. BIO 195D (Gilkerson, Altman, Lundmark, Rechs) | 16. ENGL 195 A/W (Laflen) |
| | 17. ENGL 410 A/B/E/W (Laflen, Komiyama) |
| | 18. ENVS 195 (Linklater) |
| | 19. ETHN 195A/B (Burris, Gow) |

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 20. FACS 195A/C (Hanna, Moylan) | 34. MKTG 195 (Baldus) |
| 21. FIN 195 (Vygodina) | 35. MUSC 195, 295 (Villalobos) |
| 22. FSHD 195F (Moylan) | 36. NSM 195B (Santangelo) |
| 23. GEOG 195B (Schmidtlein, Oberle) | 37. NUFD 195 (Wie) |
| 24. GPHD 195 (Pratt) | 38. POLS 195A/B (Jackson) |
| 25. HHS 195 (Quirarte) | 39. PSYC 195F/G (Knifsend, Kim, Aceves
Azuara, Garcia Peraza) |
| 26. HIST 195T (Burke) | 40. PUBH 195 (Mattheus, Baldwin) |
| 27. HIST 295, 297 (Quintana) | 41. RPTA 195R (Hoffman) |
| 28. HONR 195 (Simpson) | 42. SOC 195 (Barajas, Ida, Berg, Gonzales,
Carrigan, Morris, Brooks) |
| 29. HRS 195 (Young) | 43. SPAN 195 (Fleck) |
| 30. ID 195 (Blackburn, Major-McNairn) | 44. THEA 195 (Flickinger, Jones) |
| 31. INTD 195 (Pratt) | 45. WGS 195A (Josephson) |
| 32. JOUR 195 (Stitt, Pollard) | |
| 33. MBA 295C (Li, Sabbaghi, Choi) | |

Service-Learning Courses

- Students deepen their understanding of course material while participating in on or off-campus experiences with a partner organization. Students articulate how the service experience affirms, expands, integrates, or examines the academic content of the course.
- Students reported** that service learning helped foster community engagement, intercultural understanding, civic responsibility, and meaningful relationships with community partners.

The six elements of service learning are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) reciprocal & collaborative partnerships | 4) explicit civic learning goals |
| 2) benefit to the common good | 5) critical reflection activities, and |
| 3) academic relevance | 6) integrated assessment |

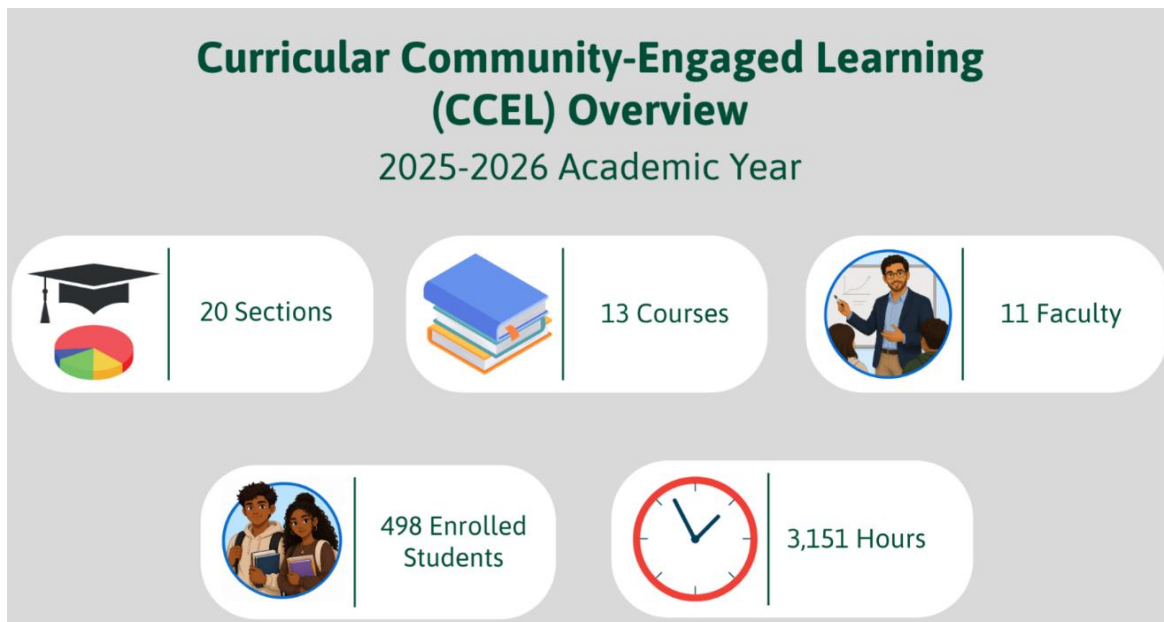


Service-Learning Courses Offered in 2025-26 (with lead faculty):

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. BHON 160 (Daly) | 16. HONR 103 (Sampanis) |
| 2. CHAD 35F (Bawardi Shomar, Pieng, Hatheway, Wilber, Lilly) | 17. HONR 192 (Simpson) |
| 3. CHAD 190 (Ribeiro, Parrish, Ferry-Perata, Pieng, Brown, Yeung, Buda) | 18. MATH 12 (Mathur) |
| 4. CRJ 198 (Fox) | 19. MATH 110A/B (Ghosh Hajra) |
| 5. DNCE 160 (Bayne) | 20. MATH 193 (Ghosh Hajra) |
| 6. EDSS 279B (Espinosa Castro) | 21. MBA 263 (Daly, Djafaripour Roudbari) |
| 7. EDUC 1 (Chalios) | 22. MKTG 186 (Sabbaghi) |
| 8. EDUC 10 (Chalios) | 23. NUFD 117 (Shilts) |
| 9. EDUC 125A/B (Grogan-Donner/Solari) | 24. NURS 139 (Costa, Grandjean) |
| 10. ETHN 199 (Wade) | 25. PSYC 143 (Knifsend) |
| 11. FASH 146 (Amato) | 26. PSYC 195F (Kim) |
| 12. FSHD 108 (Maples) | 27. RPTA 106 (Elder-Gok, Krause) |
| 13. FSHD 162 (Kurasaki) | 28. RPTA 165 (Krause) |
| 14. GERO 11 (Abah, Paumer) | 29. SOC 144 (Gonzales) |
| 15. GERO 103 (Abah) | 30. STAT 191 (Pannu) |
| | 31. SWRK 136 (Curry) |

Curricular Community-Engaged Learning (CCEL) Courses

- Students engage in course-based community service experiences, on- or off-campus, characterized by *reciprocal and collaborative partnerships* that enhance student understanding, the outcomes of which *benefit the common good*.



CCEL Courses Offered in 2025-26 (with lead faculty):

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. ARCH 11B (Agrawal) | 6. MATH 108 (Demiroglu) | 11. PSYC 135 (Garcia Peraza) |
| 2. EDMS 316 (Porter) | 7. MATH 30 (Demiroglu) | 12. SPAN 106 (Romero) |
| 3. EDUC 125 (Solari) | 8. MATH 29 (Mathur) | 13. STAT 1 (Mathur) |
| 4. ETHN 172 (Wade) | 9. MATH 107C (Wiscons) | |
| 5. MATH 100 (Demiroglu) | 10. MATH 31 (Ratti) | |

Self-Reported Student Outcomes for CEL Courses & Academic Internships (N = 405)



94% developed rewarding relationships.

I learned the importance of collaboration and communication to make meaningful community impact.



94% felt they made a positive community contribution.



90% increased interest in working with diverse populations.

Students who took CEL courses said...

This placement helped build my confidence



90% gained new perspectives on people from different backgrounds.

It has helped me realize that a future career which contributes to meaningful and sustainable change is the path I need to take



90% increased interest in future community engagement.

It provided exceptional hands-on experience that you just can't get from a course on campus

Students who did an academic internship said...

The supervisor really helped with networking and career development

It really opened my eyes to the possibilities within my major

Using culturally sensitive assessments and working with interpreters was a great learning experience

Writing Partners Program at Sacramento State

- These courses provide a Community-Engaged Learning experience that offers students an opportunity to teach and learn through a letter exchange with students from elementary and middle schools in the Sacramento region.
- The CEC coordinates partnerships between Sac State faculty and teachers at K-12 schools, supports faculty and teachers, and interprets risk management guidelines.



Writing Partners Courses (Faculty) not listed above in Service Learning or CCEL course lists:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| • EDUC 21 (Chalios, Becker, Grogan-Donner) | • GEOG 148 (Arpagian) | • MATH 105A (Mathur) |
| • ETHN 170 (Wade) | • GEOG 164 (Keegan) | • NURS 123 (Holt) |
| • GEOG 102 (Keegan) | • MATH 107B (Wiscons) | • PSYC 135 (Garcia Peraza) |
| | • MATH 1 (Mathur) | • THEA 1 (Muganzo) |

Participating K-12 Schools

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Rosa Parks Middle | 11. Sam Brannan Middle School |
| 2. Ethel Phillips Elementary | 12. Elder Creek Elementary |
| 3. Florin Elementary | 13. Prospect Community Day School |
| 4. Cal Middle | 14. Rosemont High School |
| 5. Abraham Lincoln Elementary | 15. Father Keith B. Kenny Elementary |
| 6. HW Harkness | 16. Mark Twain Elementary |
| 7. Oak Ridge Elementary | 17. Bowling Green Chacon Language and Science Academy |
| 8. John D. Sloat Elementary | 18. Language Academy of Sacramento |
| 9. Suy:u | 19. Dyer Kelly Elementary |
| 10. GCC Virtual Academy | 20. Sac COE Foundations Program at Sac State |

Writing Partners Student Survey Findings

- **4th – 12th graders reported** improved literacy skills and letter-writing abilities, meaningful relationships with college mentors, and increased familiarity with higher education.
- **Sac State students reported** improved writing confidence, communication skills, sense of belonging, and community engagement.
- Both college students and 4th – 12th grade students said they enjoyed exchanging letters, meeting their writing partners, and participating in the campus visits.
- Sac State students shared:

I enjoyed sharing my experiences and trying to motivate a younger group of students to find interest in a career like Nursing or explore their interests.

...I influenced my writing partner to be more interested in Applied Mathematics and other STEM fields.

It was meaningful to me to be able to share some of my knowledge about the college system.

CERCA Courses

- This year, the CEC piloted tracking a few Community-Engaged Research/Creative Activity (CERCA) courses. We will be expanding guidance and support in the coming year.
- Students and lead faculty apply CERCA principles as they complete research/creative activity projects with/for community agencies, including:
 - Caring interdependence
 - Equity-oriented collaboration
 - Addressing critical social issues and contributing to the public good



Community Service Internship

- The CEC offered this internship for the first time this year. Student interns serve with a community partner for 13 weeks during the semester, submit reflection journals, and attend orientation and check-in meetings to earn one unit of academic credit.
- **All student survey respondents reported** that because of the internship they
 - gained new perspectives on the lives of people from different backgrounds
 - have come to feel more connected to the Sacramento community
 - felt they made a positive contribution to the agency or community members.
- Student interns shared:

"I learned that showing up each week, even in small ways, truly matters"

"This experience has strengthened my desire to work with and serve my community"

"It's a good way to meet new people and help others in need."

- Partner sites included:
 - River City Food Bank
 - Maryhouse & Mustard Seed School at Sacramento Loaves & Fishes
 - Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary
 - Sac State Sustainability
 - ACC Senior Services



Semester of Service Program

- In fall 2025, the CEC offered the semester-long community service/volunteer program with the same community partners supporting the Community Service Internship.
- Students learned collaboration, teamwork, and other durable career skills, built social capital, and sometimes developed technical skills and networks related to their major.
- Community partners benefitted from student skillsets, empathy, cultural capital, and ongoing commitment to community service.
- Students shared:

I always knew I wanted to work in a career where I could help others, this solidified that.

I believe this experience connected me to my community in a way I never could have imagined.

I would love to do more volunteering in the future. Connecting with the community feels nice.

Semester of Service Program Overview

2025-2026 Academic Year



26 Students



566 Volunteer Hours



Community Partners

Community Learning Agreements

The CEC facilitates Agreement development on behalf of faculty and staff, with a community organization or agency where students will be placed for experiential learning courses.

- New and renewed Requested Agreements: **38**
- Active Community Partner Organizations: approximately **1,303**
- Active Community Partner Placement Sites: approximately **422**
- Agreements with community agencies: **approximately 1,000**

Outreach to Community Organizations

- Developed a comprehensive Community Partner Guide

- Created new guidance on searching for Community Organizations
- Hosted four information sessions on Community Learning Agreements

Community Partner Survey Feedback (23 respondents)

- **Organization Types/Services:** education, youth development, health and human services, disability support, arts and culture, environmental education, recreation, and legal services
 - **Sac State students provided:** direct services for children, families, older adults, and those with disabilities, educational & community engagement activities, administrative support
 - **Benefits of Hosting Sac State Students:**
 - Increased organizational capacity
 - Enhanced services for clients
 - Stronger community partnerships
 - Meaningful experiential learning
 - Workforce development
 - Mentoring students
 - **Additional Needs or Support:**
 - More faculty involvement and cross-disciplinary collaboration from students, faculty
 - More students, especially for tutoring, mentoring, teacher professional development, and educational outreach.
-

CEC Events and Programs

Civic Engagement Resource Fair

October 14, 2025; 200 students and 19 organizations participated

- Community partners brought awareness to their organizations' efforts, shared resources with students, registered voters, and created partnerships with Sacramento State and other community organizations.
- Students learned about opportunities for civic engagement, volunteering, academic internships, service learning, and employment.



Participating Organizations:

- [Sacramento Loaves & Fishes](#)
 - [My Sister's House](#)
 - [Sacramento ACT](#)
 - [350 Sacramento](#)
 - [Sacramento County Voter Registration](#)
 - [SMUD](#)
 - [NorCal Arts](#)
 - [California Center for Civic Participation](#)
 - [Sacramento History Museum](#)
 - [Sierra Service Project](#)
 - [Yolo County ACE](#)
 - [ASI Office of Governmental Affairs](#)
 - [NorCal Resist](#)
 - [League of Women Voters Sacramento County](#)
 - [American River Parkway Foundation](#)
 - [ACC Senior Services](#)
 - [Latino Coalition for a Healthy California](#)
-

Community Engagement Showcase

- April 9, 2026 - 112 Total participants
- Theme: *Classroom to Community: Experiential Learning for Career Readiness & Civic Impact*
- There were 18 poster presentations involving many students, faculty, and staff from most colleges and other units such as the Career Center.
- Check out this year's posters on the CEC's [CE Showcase webpage](#).



Faculty Learning Communities, Trainings, and Supports

The CEC hosted two Faculty Learning Communities (FLCs) this year:

- Nine faculty participated in our fall 2025 *Designing a Mutually Beneficial Community-Engaged Learning Course*, where most created or adapted a service-learning course.
- Ten faculty completed our spring 2026 FLC *Increasing Your Impact with Community-Engaged Research*.

- At the end of both FLCs, faculty presented Canvas-based portfolios on their new or improved community-engaged learning course or community-engaged research project, based on what they learned during the FLC. Faculty have found community-engagement focused FLCs to be a helpful opportunity for faculty to learn with and from each other.

The Community-Engaged Research FLC helped me find a community of like-minded scholars here at Sac State. This felt like a breath of fresh air, talking with people in different fields who share similar values.

This FLC was so informative and motivating. I created a syllabus that was approved for CSU standards for Service Learning in one semester that I am so excited to teach!

- We conducted two academic internship-focused workshops for faculty and internship coordinators, to identify challenges and opportunities and offer support.
- We provide ongoing individual consultations to faculty and staff in support of their requests for new Community Learning Agreements with community organizations and development and improvement of academic internships, community-engaged learning courses, and CERCA courses.

Hornet Community Bus Tour

- The CEC hosted the *5th Annual Hornet Community Bus Tour on May 27 and 28, 2026*. This tour familiarizes Sac State faculty and staff with the communities in which they reside, work, and engage recreationally, aiming to develop meaningful collaborations.
- 45 faculty and staff participants engaged with community organizations that offer experiential learning opportunities and other collaboration opportunities.
- This experience promotes teaching, research and service opportunities through partnering organizations and fosters a sense of community connection and belonging.



Abraham Mendoza,
Lead Employer
Relations/ Internship
& Professional
Programs
Coordinator, Career

It was a wonderful way to understand the history of Sacramento and the socioeconomic challenges and opportunities the city faces, as well as to network with community organizations, staff, and faculty. I deeply appreciated being able to see the value in creating partnerships in the community to facilitate workforce development, connect students to opportunities, and invest in the city's underserved neighborhoods.

This event was possible through the work of a volunteer planning committee and funding provided by **the Community Engagement Center and College Corps** at Sacramento State.



Participating Organizations:

- [California State Library](#)
- [California Museum](#)
- [Preservation Sacramento](#)
- [Center for Sacramento History](#)
- [Sacramento Loaves & Fishes](#)
- [Code 4 Hood](#)
- [Sacramento Black Child Legacy](#)
- [Black Parallel School Board](#)
- [Color the Block](#)
- [River Oak Center for Children](#)
- [Pivot Sacramento](#)
- [Native Sister Circle](#)
- [Self-Awareness and Recovery](#)
- [Luther Burbank High School – Urban Agriculture Academy](#)
- [Sacramento Native American Health Center – South Sac](#)
- [Alchemist CDC at Oak Park Sol Community Garden](#)

Network Café

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) provides funding for the CEC to convene representatives from local community organizations, along with Sac State students, staff, and faculty to learn about services, collaborate on issues, network, and generate solutions.

Presentations:

- **September 2025** - [SMUD](#), *Community Resources and Workforce Development*
- **October 2025** - [Sacramento Loaves & Fishes](#), *The Role of Community in Homeless Survival Services*
- **November 2025** – [Community Healthworks](#), *Assisting One Person at a Time*
- **February & June 2026** – Discussion Rounds
- **March 2026** – [River Oak Center for Children](#), *From Care to Change: River Oak in Action*

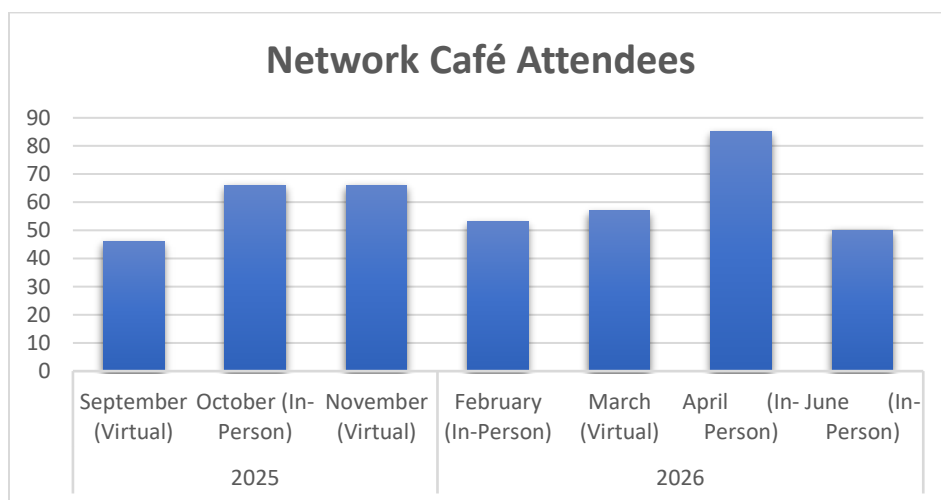
- **April 2026** – [Center for Mathematics & Science Education](#), *Learning in Action: Bridging Classroom Concepts and Community Engagement*

Network Café Participant Feedback

"I enjoyed networking and sharing with others about my program"

"I get to see all that is being done in the community"

"Meeting new people, learning about community organizations, and creating new opportunities"



Robert S. Nelsen Civic Engagement Grant Program

- In 2025 - 26, the CEC took over administration of the [Robert S. Nelsen Civic Engagement Grant Program](#) (RSN Grant Program). Through this program, approximately \$40K per year can be awarded to civic engagement grant projects.
- In the fall-winter, we provided updated application details and an informational session for prospective applicants. In spring, we coordinated a grant review committee who helped us select 10 FY 2026 - 27 grantee projects (from 14 applicants).
- Throughout the year, we provided fiscal and programmatic support to eight 2025 - 26 grantees.
- In May 2026, we held a special grantee recognition luncheon honoring both FY 2024 – 25 and FY 2025 - 26 grantees and the RSN Grant Program funders, Congresswoman Doris Matsui and Roger Sant.



Photo of most 2025-26 and 2024-25 grantees, some community partners, the funders Congresswoman Doris Matsui and Roger Sant, and selected Sac State leaders.

The CEC's programs are funded through Academic Affairs, the Chancellor's Office Center for Community Engagement, SMUD, IRA Program, ASI, and [donations from people like you](#).

Interested in learning more about experiential learning and community engagement? Please visit our [website](#) or email us at cec@csus.edu. *We look forward to connecting with you!*