

HANDS ON NEWSLETTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF SACRAMENTO STATE'S
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER



Welcome

Dr. Dana Kivel, CEC Director

This is my farewell column as Director of the Community Engagement Center. I took on the position in January of 2014 and will be returning to my home Department, Recreation, Parks & Tourism Administration in the fall to return to teaching. I wanted to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to the students, faculty, administrators and community partners who have supported me over the past six years. It has been an amazing journey and experience to be at the helm of the CEC and work to deepen the commitment of the campus to participate in community-engaged learning – Service Learning, Academic Internships – and community service. As I reflect on my time in the CEC, I believe I am leaving the organization better than I found it. I began with no staff and within a few months hired Francine Redada, CEC’s Senior Partnership Coordinator. Today, CEC has four full-time staff and a Volunteers In Service to America (VISTA) specialist. One of our full-time staff members is a newly-created position for the campus, the Volunteer & Program Specialist, whose job is to create a centralized mechanism for students, faculty and staff to volunteer with community-based organizations. This position will become even more critical when the campus Anchor Initiative program takes off in the next year. Since 2014, thousands of Sac State students have participated in numerous community events: Paint the Town, River City Food Bank’s

Thanksgiving week food drive, Harvest Sacramento’s fruit gleaning, Get out the Vote canvassing, fire-recovery work in Sonoma County and Community and Civic Engagement resource fairs. More than 500 community partnership agreements have been developed in the past six years and the CEC was also tasked with supporting the more than 1,500 students who engage in non-clinical academic internships. We worked with IRT to build a database to place thousands of Service Learning and Academic Internship students at more than 700 different partners sites which enabled the students to comply with risk management requirements. Over six years, the number of Service Learning students increased approximately 25%, with 10% of the campus participating in courses with a Service Learning component. Our office took the lead on submitting our successful application for reclassification to become recognized as a 2020 Carnegie Community Engaged campus. And, we opened a satellite office in the Sac State Downtown facility. None of these points of pride would have been possible without the ongoing support and resources of our campus leadership: President Robert Nelsen, Provost Steve Perez, Vice Provost for Strategic Initiatives, Christine Miller, Sheree Meyer, Dean of the College of Arts & Letters, Chevelle Newsome, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Jim German, Dean of Undergrad Studies and CEC’s Advisory Committee and numerous friends and supporters on and off campus and, of course, the CEC staff: Francine Redada, Isabel Ibarra, Marisa

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Warnock, Anthony Fajardo, student assistants, including Jasmyn Washington, Yusuf Can, and Kayla Brown, and CEC Faculty Associates, Rachel August, Casey Knifsend and Ann Moylan. There are many things to celebrate, not the least of which is that the CEC will be welcoming a new Director, Dr. Ann Moylan Professor of Family Studies and Human Development in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Dr. Moylan’s 3-year appointment begins in August. She has a long history of working with the CEC and served as its Interim Director in Fall 2019. She has developed and taught Service Learning courses, supervised internships, participated in Writing Partners and served on a Task Force for Service Learning. I am excited to hand over the reins to Dr. Moylan. We will be hosting a virtual celebration in September so I can thank you all virtually and so you can meet Dr. Moylan. In the meantime, have a safe and healthy summer and we will see you soon!



Paint the Town

Jasmyn Washington, CEC Student Assistant

The Community Engagement Center collaborated with Neighborworks Sacramento once again for their annual Paint the Town event. Each year, Neighborworks Sacramento selects a neighborhood block in Sacramento to help homeowners beautify and renovate their houses. On September 27 and 28, 2019, we brought 92 Sac State volunteers to Del Paso Heights to participate in painting homes, building fences, landscaping yards, and re-screening windows on three houses in the neighborhood. Neighborworks Sacramento is a community organization dedicated to helping Sacramento homeowners be successful in their venture of the complicated nature of owning property. Their services include teaching Sacramento residents how to apply for loans, maintain their property, and helping improve Sacramento neighborhoods. This event marked Neighborworks' 30th annual Paint the Town. The homeowners were very grateful for all the hard work of our volunteers.

President Robert Nelsen, his wife Jody Nelsen, and Herky T. Hornet were some of our guests at this event and were among our many volunteers who created a fun and fulfilling day of service. Our volunteers enjoyed this experience of helping others and creating meaningful connections with each other during this event.

Resource Fair

Kayla Brown, CEC Student Assistant



On October 17, 2019, the Community Engagement Center hosted its fourth annual Community and Civic Engagement Resource Fair in the Library Quad. CEC invited govern-

ment, civic and community agencies to share information about their work around elections, voting, and civic and community engagement with the Sac State campus. Of the 10 community partners at this event, five focused on voter registration, and they registered more than 30 voters. More than 75 students participated in a passport giveaway that encouraged them to visit all of the booths. Community partners enjoyed being able to interact with students and with others to see who they might want to partner with in the future. This year our featured partner was California's Secretary of State's Office, they brought the new digital voting machine and let students test it out so they were ready to vote in the primary elections.



“It was great to meet lots of students and tell them about how their vote counts”

-Marjorie J Patzer
League of Women Voters
Sacramento County

Community Engagement Faculty Associates

Dr. Rachel August, CEC Faculty Associate for Service Learning and a Professor of Psychology, supports faculty by providing regular consultation, training, and workshops related to Service Learning. She also works on initiatives and policies related to Service Learning and other High Impact Practices, and provides



ongoing assessment related to those practices. A faculty member at Sacramento State since 1997, she has taught extensively with Service Learning as a pedagogy in both research methods and organizational psychology courses. She has primarily partnered with agencies that focus on healthy aging, such as Sacramento County Department of Child, Family, and Adult Services, Eskaton Continuing Care Retirement Communities, and the Renaissance Society. Her applied research, often carried out with the help of Service Learning students, is focused on later life career development and retirement, with the goal of facilitating smooth transitions from work to retirement that enable positive post-retirement adjustment. Recently, she co chaired the steering committee and co-wrote the application for the Carnegie Foundation for the Elective Community Engagement Classification, which Sacramento State received in January, 2020. Please contact Rachel at raugust@csus.edu for questions about Service Learning.

Dr. Casey A. Knifsend, CEC Faculty Associate for Academic Internships, and Associate Professor, Psychology, provides training and resources for Academic Internships to faculty, staff, and administrators. Additionally, she is involved with supports for campus policy and best practices around Academic



Internships, as well as the assessment of students' Academic Internship experiences. For the past six years, she has taught Service Learning and Academic Internship courses, partnering primarily with organizations focused on youth development in the Sacramento region. Her applied research projects focus on positive youth development through extracurricular activities and after-school programs, and involve implementing and evaluating programs to understand their effects on academic and psychosocial outcomes. She also leads trainings on youth development for volunteers and staff members of community agencies, as well as workshops for teenagers on psychosocial well-being, including topics related to effective communication and mental health. Please contact Casey at casey.knifsend@csus.edu for support with Academic Internships.

River City Food Bank

Griselda Camacho , CEC Student Assistant

In 2019, Sacramento State's CEC once again partnered with the River City Food Bank on November 25 and 26 for the two-day Carry a Thankful Heart event. Monday and Tuesday of the week of Thanksgiving, 77 Sacramento State volunteers offered their time to help fight hunger in the community. Many people in the Sacramento area are in need of food assistance. With the help of the River City Food Bank and their wonderful employees, many people can find aid with their food insecurity. Over two days, volunteers helped the River City Food Bank distribute 590 turkeys and 150 chickens. More than 800 households received food assistance thanks to the hard work of everyone involved.



Volunteers included students, faculty, and alumni. The event had two shifts per day: for the first shift, volunteers packaged and unloaded food and prepped the area. The second shift had the privilege of helping to distribute the food to the line of people that wrapped around the block. President Nelsen and his wife, Jodi Nelsen, joined the volunteers in prepping efforts for the first day's event. River City Food Bank offers healthy food assistance to children, the elderly, the disabled, and the working poor. Those who struggle the most to meet their nutritional needs can find some aid with the friendly faces at the River City Food Bank, located in Midtown on 28th Street. Open Monday through Friday from 11:30 am to 3 pm.

"I am thrilled to hear that we were able to give out more turkeys than what we did in previous years."

-Volunteer



Sac State Awarded 2020 Carnegie Reclassification

Dixie Reid, Staff Writer, University Communications

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has rewarded Sacramento State's contributions and commitment to the Sacramento region with its prestigious 2020 Carnegie Community-Engagement Classification endorsement. Sac State is one of just 119 U.S. colleges and universities to be named a Carnegie Community-Engaged Campus this year. Sac State serves the community in many ways. "Community engagement will always remain at the heart of everything we do," University President Robert S. Nelsen said. "Sacramento State exists to serve our community." While the Carnegie designation is an honor, it's not considered an award, because campuses must earn it with evidence-based documentation. Sac State's application was massive, totaling 94 pages and more than 39,000 words, compiled by a team of 25 University faculty, staff, and administrators over more than a year. Only 359 institutions throughout the country hold the Elective Carnegie Community-Engagement Classification. Not every applicant is successful. Sac State earned the Carnegie classification in 2010 and 2015. "The Carnegie classification gives us a means to collect the data to showcase what we've accomplished," said Christine M. Miller, interim vice provost for Strategic Services. "We've been doing things all along, but until someone taps you on the shoulder and asks what you've been doing for community engagement, you might continue but not tell anyone about it." In a letter of congratulations to Nelsen and the University, Carnegie's management team wrote: "Your application documented excellent alignment among campus mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement. It responded to the classification framework with ... compelling evidence of exemplary practices of institutionalized community engagement." Highlights of Sac State's campus-community partnerships include: U-Nite, the annual



arts celebration held in collaboration with the Crocker Art Museum and Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. The Office of Water Programs' work with local, state, and federal agencies to provide critical hydrological and environmental policy-making support. The Align Capital Project, supported by Nelsen, brings together community partners from the eight-county region to focus on educational, economic, and talent development, and community well-being. Sac State students, particularly those in their first year, participate in service learning at a higher rate than students at other California State University (CSU) campuses. More than 3,000 Hornets volunteer with community partners, and their work links directly to what they're learning in the classroom. Faculty and staff last year received more than \$21 million in external grants centered on engagement or outreach with community partners. Additionally, faculty were awarded \$5.2 million for public health projects, allowing them to offer their expertise to nonprofits. The planetarium at the new Ernest E. Tschannen Science Complex is projected to attract 15,000 area schoolchildren and adults annually. "All of those kids who come to campus to participate in the science center and the planetarium will get excited about what they may want to do down the road and maybe about coming to Sac State, as well," said Dana Kivel, director of the Community Engagement Center at Sacramento State and a member of the leadership team that completed the Carnegie application. Sac State's Carnegie classification is valid until 2026.





Network Café

Anthony Farjardo, Vista Specialist and
Marisa Warnock, Volunteer & Program Specialist

After many years of participating in Network Café and with SMUD's continued support, CEC has picked up the leadership role and began hosting meetings in January 2020.



For the past 17 years, Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS) hosted Network Café, a monthly gathering of local non-profit organizations. Network Café provides an opportunity for organizations to network, give interesting presentations, and exchange information in a relaxed environment with a meal. Network Café began in 2001, through a partnership between SFBFS, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), and United Way, to connect community resources and services to people in need. Every month, over 70 representatives from local human-services organizations gather to learn about services, collaborate on issues, and generate solutions to serve our community. Not-for-profit agencies are invited to join Network Café as we continue to support local communities as they navigate the path to security, health, and prosperity. On January 16, the first Network Café at Sacramento State was held in the Redwood Room in the University Union. President Nelsen attended the inaugural event with presenters from UC Davis MIND Institute Autism Center of Excellence and Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections.

Harvest Sacramento

Yusuf Can, CEC Student Assistant



On Saturday, March 7, 2020, the Community Engagement Center (CEC) hosted the Harvest Sacramento event along with Soil Born Farm. The Harvest Sacramento Initiative, a project started by Soil Born Farms, is a collaborative effort of community members, non-profits, businesses and university students in order to harvest surplus fruit and vegetables from backyards and small orchards and donate it to local food assistance programs.

Along with other volunteers, over 50 Sac State students volunteered to help harvest approximately 10,000 lbs. of fruit for the local programs while enduring rain. Even with the rain, the estimated amount of fruit that was harvested has been amazing on top of the great turnout

of volunteers. All the food that was harvested has been distributed to people in our community who are experiencing food insecurity.



Service Learning Faculty Spotlight: Ryan Fuller

The Sacramento region is home to more than 9,000 charitable organizations, covering diverse causes from food insecurity to suicide prevention to job training. These nonprofit organizations, like their peers across the state

and the country, exist in an environment where they compete for funding and volunteers and have to demonstrate the impacts of their programs to their community of stakeholders. They improve their reputation and goodwill when they provide evidence of progress toward goals. In Fall 2019, students in Dr. Ryan Fuller's HROB 152: Management Skills course participated in a service-learning project with 25 local nonprofit organizations. Fuller designed the project to help nonprofits communicate their impact to stakeholders through their GuideStar profile, and to tie into the University's Anchor mission to respond to the needs of the community. GuideStar is a clearinghouse of information about nonprofit organizations. A typical GuideStar profile includes basic information about an organization – contact, revenues and expenses. Organizations can elaborate their profile with information about their mission, goals, capabilities, and performance metrics, and receive badges for demonstrating their transparency.

The more information they provide, the higher the level of transparency, ranging from Bronze to Platinum. For example, organizations at the Bronze level have included basic information, while Platinum organizations have provided all basic information, financial information, information about capacity, and performance measures for important organization goals. About 1.3% of charitable organizations have a GuideStar transparency level of Gold or Platinum. In HROB 152, students worked in teams to elevate organizations' profiles to Gold or Platinum. First, they analyzed similar peer organizations at the GuideStar level to which the organization aspired. Then, they worked with their organization to develop responses to Charting Impact (questions developed by GuideStar, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, and the Independent Sector) or researched and justified measures the organization could report on GuideStar. The project was a success. Students contributed more than 600 hours to nonprofit organizations in "in-kind" time. Importantly, students' self-reported civic engagement attitudes and civic engagement behaviors changed (in the positive direction) from the beginning to the end of the project. In their written feedback about the project, students emphasized the development of team skills and communication. Out of 60+ students, four received paid internships with organizations.

Writing Partners



The Writing Partners Program at Sac State is designed to provide a service learning experience that offers Sac State students an opportunity to teach and learn through a letter exchange with students from elementary schools in the Sacramento region. Sac State faculty have integrated Writing Partners in departments across campus, including nursing, teacher education, EOP, first-year seminars, English and Engineering courses. Writing Partners pairs university student writers with elementary student writers in a collaborative letter exchange.

The program culminates with the elementary students visiting Sac State to experience college life. Writing Partners incorporates academic and social learning goals, Writing Partners enhances creative and critical thinking skills and fosters a sense of authority in students as writers and as members of the campus community. During the 2019-2020 academic year, approximately 22 faculty with 28 sections were paired with 41 elementary school teachers. About 995 Sac State students exchanged 3-4 letters with 1,221 5th and 6th grade students from schools in six school districts around the Sacramento area.



Service Learning



Service Learning is a teaching method that faculty use to help students deepen their understanding of course material. Students reflect in a structured manner, considering how their service experience affirms, expands, integrates, or calls into question what they are learning in an academic course. During the 2019-2020 academic year, approximately 3,100 students participated in over 100 service learning courses at more than 100 community partner sites. We also had 12 faculty participate in the Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on Service Learning representing a wide variety of departments such as Math, Child Development, RPTA, etc.

Academic Internships



During Fall 2019, about 1,000 students completed an Academic Internship, requiring practical experience in a non-profit, community, government, or business setting. Examples include tutoring children, implementing health-based interventions, and working at an architecture firm. Through Academic Internships, students gain valuable skills, apply classroom learning to the real-world, and make an impact in an area of professional interest. Faculty and community partners alike often enjoy mentoring students new to the field. The Community Engagement Center supports Academic Internships through resources for faculty, including guidance for executing University-Community Partner agreements. For more information, please review our Academic Internship Toolkit on our website.

Employee Spotlight



Anthony Fajardo

CEC Profile: Volunteer Specialist VISTA

The CEC welcomes Anthony Fajardo. Through an agreement with the Child Abuse Prevention Center, the CEC has contracted for a Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) specialist to aid our Program and Volunteer Specialist, Marisa Warnock, in developing a volunteer recruitment program for the campus. Anthony graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and worked six years in the retail industry. During the fall semester, Anthony led the River City Food Bank Carry a Thankful Heart event and was instrumental in the completion of two grants awarded to the CEC. In spring, Anthony along with our Senior Partnership Coordinator, Francine Redada, supervised two California Campus Compact fellows and assisted with their Youth Voice~Youth Vote video project focused on voter suppression.



Griselda Camacho

CEC Profile: California Campus Compact Community Engagement Student Fellow

I'm a senior at Sacramento State studying Forensic Chemistry. This fellowship was important to me because I believe that this is a very significant year to be civically engaged. Especially when it comes to voting and to the census. Those are two responsibilities that we as citizens should take very seriously. While there were some obstacles with this fellowship due to the social distancing measures in place, with guidance from the Community Engagement Center at Sacramento State, we were still able to be creative in finding ways to engage our youth audience. Through filmmaking and social media I have been able to reach out to other students and inform them on the importance of being engaged in voting. Through my experience and research during the span of this fellowship, I learned more about how to stay civically engaged to help my community. In the future I will continue to be an advocate who encourages others to make their voice heard through their right to vote.



Janneth Magana

CEC Profile: California Campus Compact Community Engagement Student Fellow

This fellowship has been a great experience for me and it has allowed me to meet some of the most amazing people. It allowed me to express my opinions about voter suppression along with my partner who is part of the fellowship. I am a third year child development major and currently work with children who have been diagnosed with autism or are on the spectrum. Being their behavioral therapist is such a rewarding job. That's what led me to be a part of this fellowship, being able to spread awareness and provide resources through this fellowship. I highly recommend others to be a part of this fellowship or become involved with the Community Engagement Center on campus.

Marisa Warnock

CEC Profile: Volunteer & Program Specialist

The Community Engagement Center (CEC) hired Marisa Warnock in July 2019 as the first Volunteer & Program Specialist at Sacramento State. Although the CEC has had a staff person overseeing programs and partnerships for the center, there has never been a dedicated position focused exclusively on developing a volunteer program for the campus. Marisa has a passion for developing community through programming and giving back through meaningful community service. Marisa has volunteered extensively at Loaves & Fishes and through serving on the board of a local Ultimate Frisbee nonprofit. Marisa has been on campus since 2013, working in the College of Continuing Education and the English Language Institute. She is also double alumna from the RPTA department at Sac State. Before working at Sac State, Marisa worked in the education, nonprofit, and recreation fields. Marisa is looking forward to propelling the mission of the Anchor University through developing meaningful programming and community service opportunities for Sacramento State students to get involved in the community.



Ann Moylan

CEC Profile: Interim Director

Professor Ann Moylan stepped in as Interim Director for the fall semester 2019 while Director Dana Kivel was on sabbatical. Due to Ann's extensive background in offering service-learning courses, including the Writing Partners program, and overseeing academic internships she brought a strong working knowledge of these aspects of CEC operations. In addition, Ann has presented at professional conferences on topics such as working with community partners, ethical dilemmas and cultural sensitivity in service learning, and the Writing Partners program as related to civic education. Ann also brought skills in administration from having served as the Education Director for Planned Parenthood Alameda/San Francisco and Director of the Center for Family Studies at Sac State. Three new CEC opportunities were developed under Ann's leadership: Network Café, a GIS-mapping project with a class in the Department of Geography, and the SacSend newsletter for direct contact with the entire student body and campus community. Ann continues at CEC as a Faculty Associate.

Highlights from 2019-2020

Paint the Town 2019



River City Food Bank 2019



Resource Fair 2019



Harvest Sacramento 2020



Network Cafe 2020



What We Do

The Community Engagement Center, formerly known as the Office of Community Collaboration, was established as the university's primary service learning office. We have since expanded our focus to encompass various forms of engagement, including civic learning and community service. The Community Engagement Center works closely with local non-profits, schools, government agencies, and campus-based programs that provide service to under deserved and underrepresented populations throughout the Sacramento region. Our mission is 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. Our vision is to create a campus climate that promotes community awareness and involvement and supports students to become civic minded graduates who are actively engaged in making a difference both locally and globally.



Community Engagement Center's inaugural float for the 2019 Homecoming Parade — Thank you Kayla Brown, Isabel Ibarra, Yusuf Can, Anthony Fajardo, Ann Moylan and Brian Donnelly!



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