



# Hands On Year in Review

# 2023



## Encouraged and Excited!

by Dr. J. Ann Moylan, CEC Director

At this time last year, I focused my comments on optimism and opportunity as we were starting to come out from under the COVID pandemic. This year, I can take that a step further -- I am encouraged by the accomplishments and excited by the dreams and aspirations of the Community Engagement Center, Sacramento State students, faculty and staff, and our community partners.

Three years since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, I am encouraged by the return of several of our in-person events that had been remote during the pandemic. Read about Alternative Break, the Civic Engagement Resource Fair, Jumpstart, Network Café, the Community Engagement Showcase, Writing Partners, and the Hornet Community Bus Tour! Robust participation and positive feedback helped to fuel our efforts and ensure meaningful opportunities for campus and community to come together. I am encouraged by the resilience and dedication of MANY community partners who have continued through great adversity to attend to the needs of this rich and diverse community. And I am encouraged by the faculty, staff and students who did not let the pandemic or other adverse events of the past several years keep them from engaging with community and making a difference in the lives of others.

The Community Engagement Center and Sacramento State are entering into a period of transformation, exploring new ways to support the community and to partner with inclusion, equity and humility. CEC embraces Sacramento State's 2023-2028 strategic plan and imperatives. We are excited by the collaborative work that unites the many units on campus and allows us to have a positive and lasting impact on and with our community.



SACRAMENTO STATE



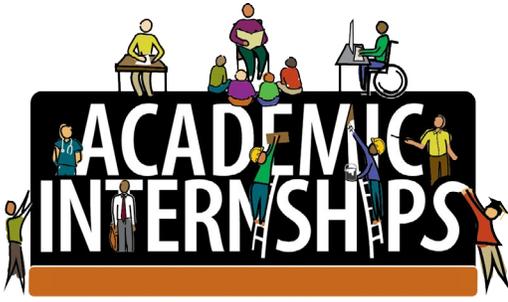
# Imperatives that Drive *Our Future*

The imperatives define the focus and direction for Sacramento State. Limiting the number of imperatives allows Sac State to prioritize resources and ensure that each goal is met and exceeded. Each of these imperatives includes goals to define the outcomes the University seeks to accomplish.

1. Elevate Student Learning and Success by Becoming a More Student-Ready University  
**Learning and Student Success**
2. Advance Innovative Teaching, Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Programs  
**Teaching, Scholarship, and Creative Activity**
3. Enrich the Diversity and Equity of the University to Create a More Welcoming, Inclusive, and Just Community  
**Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging**
4. Ensure the Development and Growth of People, Fiscal, and Structural Resources  
**Resource Development and Sustainability**
5. Embed Anchor University Efforts Throughout Campus to Strengthen Community Engagement and Impact  
**Dedicated Community Involvement**
6. Create a Campus ecosystem and culture of Wellness and Safety  
**Wellness and Safety**

Source: *Sacramento State's Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028*  
[csus.edu/president/mission-imperatives/\\_internal/\\_documents/sacramento-state-strategic-plan.pdf](https://csus.edu/president/mission-imperatives/_internal/_documents/sacramento-state-strategic-plan.pdf)





# Academic Internships and Service Learning

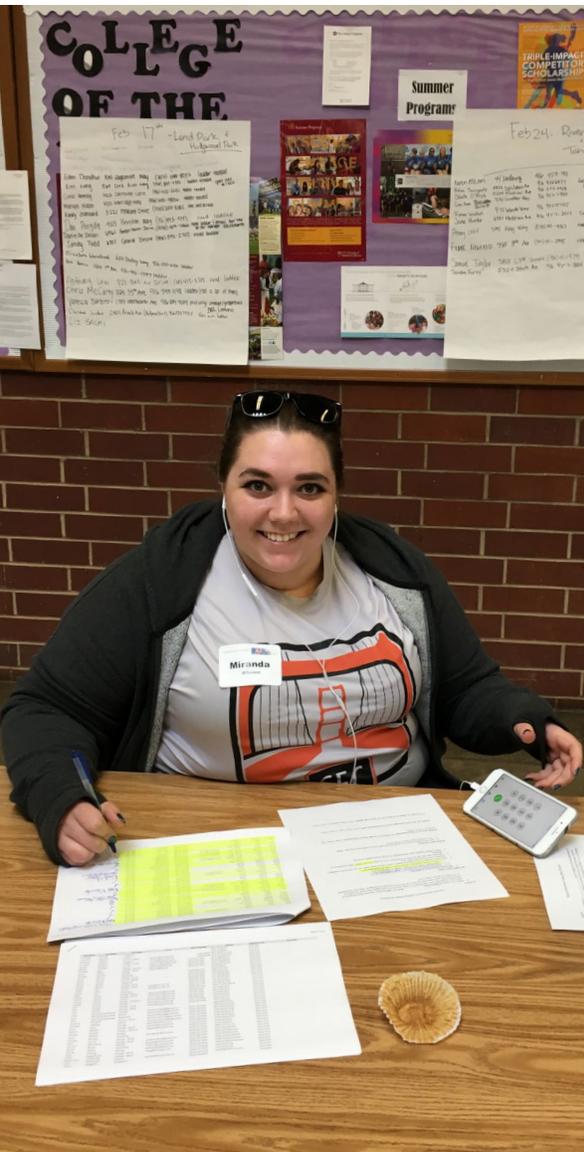
By Noel Mora, Community Partnership Coordinator

The CEC helps facilitate Academic Internships and Service-Learning in several ways. All Community Partners (community organizations) that sponsor Academic Internships or Service Learning opportunities must establish an Academic Internship/Service-Learning (IN/SL) Agreement with the university. Within the Community Engagement Center, the Community Partnership Coordinator, Noel Mora, assists faculty and community partners with this process. Faculty Associate for Academic Internships, Dr. Casey Knifsend, assists faculty with pedagogy related to Academic Internships, and Dr. Chong Choe-Smith, Faculty Associate for Community Engaged Learning, assists faculty with the process of getting courses approved or re-approved as Service Learning, as well as supporting questions regarding Service Learning pedagogy.

**Academic Internships** offer students an opportunity to work with qualified professionals in applying the skills and knowledge learned within the classroom to an on-the-job experience. Student interns tend to receive higher grades, do better in their overall coursework, and graduate faster because they are better able to see the relevance of coursework to real-world situations. Students also have the chance to “test” their career interests with an internship and will acquire work experience they can list on resumes and employment applications. In some cases, academic internships can provide students with a stipend or other payment for school tuition and expenses, and sometimes Academic Internships result in a job offer!

**Service Learning** is linked to specific courses and is a process of learning by doing that helps students deepen their understanding of course material. Students participate in on- or off-campus activities and experiences with a community partner, which may include businesses, non-profits, or governmental agencies. Service Learning experiences also strengthen resumes and/or graduate school applications, career exploration opportunities, and professional networking.

This year, there were some notable new additions to our active community partners list, including Green Light Get Outside, Yolo Cares, EdSource, CHIRLA, Uber, CA Society of Association Executives, and many more. For a complete list of current community partners, please visit the CEC website.





## Semester Of Service

By Sherell Branch, Volunteer Program Specialist

The Community Engagement Center provided Semester-of-Service programs that connected students with a partnering community organization for several weeks throughout each semester. Our programs allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of the value of the service they are giving their time and energy to, and the lasting impact it can have on others.

During the fall 2022 semester, students had the opportunity to work with three community partners:

- **River City Food Bank** to prepare and distribute food to homeless and low-income community members at the Edison Ave and 28th Street Sacramento sites.
- **Girls on the Run of Greater Sacramento** to become life coach mentors to elementary and middle school girls that ended with a 5K Fun Run celebration of empowerment.
- **916 Ink** to become 1-on-1 tutors and creative writing “button pushers” with the Read On! Program. They also became editors and sources of inspiration with the Find Your Voice creative writing workshops for elementary school children.

During the spring 2023 semester, students were provided with opportunities to work with two additional organizations:

- **Food Literacy Center** to teach elementary school children about cooking, gardening, and food literacy in support of fun, healthy eating.
- **Food for Thought** program with Roberts Family Development Center to be mentors and role models to elementary, middle, and high school youth at seven Sacramento sites.



## Alternative Break

A PROGRAM OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

By Tania Arriaga, CEC Student Intern

Sacramento State students had the opportunity to make the most of their spring break by participating in the annual Alternative Spring Break program. This program incorporates various kinds of community service projects for students to participate in.

Engaging in the Alternative Spring Break program allowed students to make a difference in their community through meaningful service. Whether it was cleaning up the neighborhood, building fences, and laying pathways at WEforce of California Inc’s Safe Harbor community garden, or preparing the Sac State Garden for spring planting, students gained a sense of fulfillment from their efforts. Additionally, the event provided opportunities for students to learn more about campus and community resources and facilities.

By engaging in service, students not only gain practical experience but also enhance their leadership and teamwork skills. The Alternative Spring Break event served as a reminder of the positive impact that volunteering can have on individuals and communities alike.





**By Sherell Branch, Volunteer Program Specialist**

The CEC provided Day-of-Service volunteer events throughout the academic school year for students to serve with different organizations each month. Our events were led by the Volunteer Program Specialist, Sherell Branch, who planned and implemented service opportunities through partnering with community organizations and recruiting student volunteers.

## Thanksgiving Food Distribution with River City Food Bank

On Tuesday, November 22nd, 2022, the CEC partnered with River City Food Bank (RCFB) to plan and coordinate the annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution at the RCFB Midtown site. This event provided an opportunity for students, staff, faculty, and alumni to volunteer their time and energy to distribute food to people in the community. Sac State volunteers joined community volunteers in organizing and offering food items to visitors such as canned and dry foods, fresh fruits & vegetables, turkeys, and gift cards. The overall morale and environment was positive within the diverse mix of faculty, staff, alumni, and students volunteering. For this volunteer event, we were joined by President Robert S. Nelson and Jody Nelson. At the end of this rewarding day of service, 577 households and over 1500 individuals received food for the Thanksgiving holiday.



## Love in Action with Josh's Heart

On February 18th, 2023, the CEC partnered with Josh's Heart for a day of service with 48 Sac State volunteers preparing 100 "blessing backpacks" for our unhoused community. The day began at the University Union from 9am until 12pm, filling blessing backpacks with essential items such as toothbrushes and paste, sanitizer, soap, deodorant, socks, and food. The second part of the day, volunteers met at Cesar Chavez Park in downtown Sacramento to give the blessing backpacks to our unhoused community members at the park and in surrounding areas. The service was impactful to the volunteers and the community members, and many of those serving left excited to join Josh's Heart again in the summer for another day of service for the unhoused community.



## Harvest Day with Soil Born Farms

On February 25th, 2023, the CEC partnered with Soil Born Farms for a day of service with 45 Sacramento State volunteers harvesting various citrus fruits around Sacramento. The day began at Soil Born Farms in Rancho Cordova for volunteer students, staff, and faculty to meet with interns and community members for an exciting continuation of the partnership between Sacramento State and Soil Born Farms. Over 100 volunteers relocated to various locations throughout Sacramento to harvest citrus fruit, including lemons, grapefruit, tangerines, and oranges. All the harvested fruit was brought back to Soil Born Farms at the end of the day to be sorted and given to community members and the Rancho Cordova Food Locker.

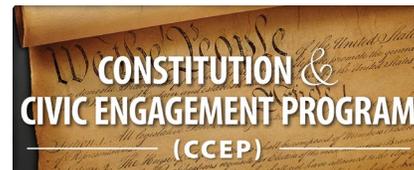


Volunteer opportunities were expanded during Alternative Break for week-long service projects from March 20th to March 24th at Weforce Inc.'s Safe Harbor Tiny Homes Community & Garden, Sac State Sustainability Garden, Food Literacy Center, and Clean California's Florin Rd Project.

# Civic Engagement Resource Fair

by Sherell Branch, Volunteer Program Specialist

On Tuesday, October 11, 2022, the CEC coordinated the annual Civic Engagement Resource Fair (CERF) at Sacramento State. This resource fair provided an opportunity for community partners to bring awareness to their organization's efforts, share resources for students, and create partnerships with Sacramento State and other community organizations.



Six campus partners and seventeen community partners participated in the event. One hundred fifty students, staff and faculty attended and made connections with these diverse campus and community organizations who provided information and opportunities for volunteering, academic internships, service learning, and/or employment. Several organizations were also able to register voters and provide information about the primary and presidential elections. The CEC provided check-in bags with our program information, pocket constitutions, and a bingo card of the participating partners with an event map. Sac State students were incentivized to visit at least 5 organizations to learn about their community efforts for a chance to win a Sac State blanket at the end of the event.



## Participating Organizations

- California Center for Civic Participation | United Latinos | Serna Center @ Sac State | Black Youth Leadership Project
- Social Justice Politicorps | Sacramento ACT| Sacramento LGBT Community Center | Stonewall Foundation of Greater Sacramento
- NorCal Resist | Sacramento NAACP| Center on Race, Immigration & Social Justice @ Sac State
- Race and Gender Equity Project | American Redress Coalition of California | CEC & Jumpstart @ Sac State | 350 Sacramento
- Community Justice Alliance Sacramento | Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals | Capital Fellows Program @ Sac State
- California Students Vote Project @ Secretary of State | League of Women Voters of Sacramento County
- Associated Students Inc. Student Government @ Sac State | LegiSchool Project @ Sac State | Sierra Service Project

Network Café



## Event Presenters August 2022 - June 2023

**August 18, 2022 Virtually**  
Sacramento Literacy Foundation  
Food Literacy Center

**September 16, 2022 Virtually**  
California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom  
Unified Voices Lead

**October 20, 2022 Harper Alumni Center, Sac State**  
ONTRACK Soul Space  
Martin Luther King Jr. Center

**January 19, 2023 Virtually**  
Crisis Nursery of Sacramento  
Girls on the Run of Greater Sacramento

**February 16, 2023 Virtually**  
Food for Thought Mentor Program  
Shine Together Inc.

**March 16, 2023 Virtually**  
WEForce of California Inc.  
Sacramento Children's Home Family Resource Center

**April 20, 2023 University Union, Cottonwood Suite, Sac State**  
Division of Inclusive Excellence  
Civic Thread

**May 18, 2023 Virtually**  
California Victim Compensation Board  
The Growth Center I Inc.

**June 15, 2023 Virtually**  
Sacramento State Juneteenth Committee  
Sacramento Juneteenth Inc.

Sponsored by



**Network Café**  
Making connections that matter

### by Sherell Branch, Volunteer Program Specialist

Network Café began in 2001, through a partnership between the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS), Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), and United Way, to connect community resources and services to people in need. Beginning in January 2020, the Community Engagement Center took the lead in facilitating Network Café. All Network Café events have a diverse attendance of Sac State students, staff, faculty, and community members looking for networking opportunities and collaborations. Every month, over 70 representatives from local non-profit organizations gather to learn about services, collaborate on issues, and generate solutions to serve our community.

In the fall of 2022, the Community Engagement Center invited community partners to present on the three-month theme of literacy. For August 2022 - September 2022, the CEC hosted virtual Network Cafés with presentations on reading literacy, food literacy, agricultural literacy, and financial literacy. On October 20th, Network Café had in-person presentations on mental health and cultural literacy from ONTRACK Soul Space's Lead Empowerment Advocate, Keke Brown, and Martin Luther King Jr. Center's Outreach Coordinator, Kaifa Yates, with 59 in attendance at the Harper Alumni Center.

In the spring of 2023, the Community Engagement Center resumed Network Café with a new three-month theme, Support Services Across the Ages. From January 2023 - March 2023, Network Café had virtual presentations on infant and preschool services, elementary social-emotional program services, teen support services, teen mothers' support and empowerment, and young adult and family services.

On April 20th, Network Café was offered in conjunction with the annual Community Engagement Showcase. Both events shared the theme of Community Engagement in Action: Advancing Equity and Inclusion. After the showcase, Network Café continued this theme with presentations from Vice President of the Division of Inclusive Excellence at Sacramento State, Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell, and Executive Director of Civic Thread (formerly WALKSacramento) Kiara Reed with 80 in attendance at the University Union Cottonwood Suite. Community organizations are invited to join Network Café as we continue to support local communities as they navigate the path to security, health, and prosperity.

# Annual Community Engagement Showcase

By J. Ann Moylan, CEC Director

The Community Engagement Center hosted the Annual Community Engagement Showcase on Thursday, April 20, from 9:30am-11:00am in the University Union Forest Suite. This year's theme was Community Engagement in Action: Advancing Equity and Inclusion. Poster presentations highlighted the theme as it was reflected in signature and emerging community engagement projects, programs, and activities. Twenty-four poster presentations were selected this year and presenters included faculty, staff, students, and community members across most colleges and many departments and centers. President Robert S. Nelsen visited the showcase and provided words of appreciation for the collaborative work that is being done to support diversity, equity and inclusion on the campus and in the community. He spoke on the importance of community engagement and the continued efforts towards solidifying Sacramento State as an Anchor University, a university that is actively collaborating with surrounding communities in meaningful and mutually beneficial ways.



# Community Engagement Showcase 2023

- Brenda Romero**  
Department: World Language & Literatures  
Community Partner: Mexican Consulate & Univision
- Kelly Thompson / Seunghee Wie**  
Department: Family and Consumer Sciences  
Nutrition Food & Dietetics  
Community Partner: CA Grocers Association
- Erin Rose Ellison**  
Department: Psychology  
Community Partner: Sacramento Community Land Trust;  
Sacramento Chinese Community Services Center
- Brianna Davis / Sayonita Ghosh Hajra / Ruqshan Amiri / Sanjot Chandi / Jonah Garcia / Jesus Marrot / Tran Nguyen / Saniya Patel / Stephanie Refugio**  
Department: Math & Statistics  
Community Partner: Sacramento City Unified School District
- Kikuko Omori**  
Department: Communication Studies  
Community Partner: Sacramento City Unified School District
- Juana Zaragoza**  
Strategic Student Support Programs / Serna Center  
Community Partner: Puente Project
- Tonia Davis**  
Department: Communication Sciences and Disorders  
Community Partner: Gigi's Playhouse: Down Syndrome Achievement Center
- Manuel Barajas**  
Department: Sociology  
Community Empowerment Faire, Literacy Empowerment Faire
- Alex Sanchez / Wayne Linklater**  
Department: Environmental Studies  
Community Partner: United Latinos
- Lee Simpson / Koleen Matias / Nancy Portillo / Anna Gagnebin / JohnPaul Bzorek Makenna Morris / Jackie Rivera**  
Honors Program Community Partner: Irish Heritage School
- Elvia Ramirez / Heidy Sarabia**  
Department: Ethnic Studies / Sociology  
Community Partner: Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Monicka Tutschka**  
Department: Political Science  
Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice  
Building Justice Podcast
- Elyse Fox**  
Department: University Library  
Community Partner: Southeast Asia Community Resource Center (SEACRC)
- Joseph Morin / Karen Kurasaki**  
Department: Family and Consumer Sciences  
Community Partner: My Sister's House
- Erik Ramirez**  
Equity and Affinity Centers, Strategic Student Support Programs  
Community Partner: Univision 19
- Emily Schofield / Karen Kurasaki**  
Department: Family and Consumer Sciences  
Community Partner: Folsom's Hope
- Ethan Evans / Arturo Baiocchi**  
Department: Social Work  
Community Partner: Sacramento Housing Alliance
- Samantha Blackburn / Dana Kivel**  
Department: Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Administration  
Hornet Community Bus Tour
- Evren Eryilmaz**  
Department: Information Systems & Business Analytics  
Center for Small Business
- Alexa Sardina / Sarah Dominic-Cluck / Ernest Uwazie**  
Department: Criminal Justice  
Counselor Education: Counseling Rehabilitation  
Community Partner: Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution, Restorative Justice Program
- Jaime Jackson**  
Department: Political Science  
Community Partner: CA State Assembly
- Rachelle Davis**  
Jumpstart  
Community Partner: SETA Head Start
- Kelly McDonald / Cathy Ishikawa**  
Center for Science and Math Success, Dept of Biological Sciences  
Community Partner: Los Rios Community College District

## JUMPSTART



# Jumpstart

Children first.®

By Araceli Gabriel, Jumpstart Program Assistant

## For the Children

The Jumpstart program is a national early education non-profit organization working toward the day that every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. Jumpstart Sac State students, known as Corps Members, provide language, literacy, and social-emotional programming for children who attend preschool at seven SETA Head Start locations.

Sacramento State supports Jumpstart's mission to drive systems' change through teaching, advocacy, and leadership that promotes quality and equitable early learning experiences for all early learners. Jumpstart aims to build and nurture a diverse and inclusive organization committed to creating learning environments that encourage unique perspectives, facilitate authentic dialogue, and honor its community members' identities.

## For the Corps Members

Jumpstart also provides opportunities for student leadership roles, as exemplified by Araceli Gabriel. Araceli's role as Jumpstart Community Engagement Coordinator provided opportunities for her to foster inclusive environments and build trusting relationships with SETA Head Start families. These experiences reaffirmed her commitment to completing her Masters of Science in Counseling and to making a lasting difference in people's lives.

Araceli's position as the Jumpstart Program Assistant allowed her to collaborate with the Jumpstart Site Manager and Corps members to accomplish the program's mission and goals by tracking processes and ensuring compliance. These experiences allowed her to acquire additional professional abilities and reinforced her dedication to empowering others when she becomes a licensed professional in clinical counseling.

### Other Jumpstart events throughout the academic year.

- Read for the Record
- Family Engagement Night
- Volunteer Events/Summer Community Service



Rachelle Davis, M.A.,  
Jumpstart Site Manager



Araceli Gabriel,  
Jumpstart Program Assistant



## Annual Community Bus Tour

By Noel Mora, Community Partnership Coordinator

The Hornet Community Bus Tour is an opportunity for faculty, staff and administrators to gain a deeper appreciation for Sacramento, both geographically and historically. Through visits with community organizations across two days, participants were able to listen and learn about the Sacramento community, particularly North and South Sacramento. In keeping with the Anchor University Initiative and the mission of the Community Engagement Center, this tour fosters mutually beneficial partnerships between faculty, staff and community partners - across teaching, research and service.

This year, the bus tour included stops at an affordable housing site operated by Mercy Housing, the Unity Center at the California Museum, the Sacramento State Downtown building (where participants heard from various advocacy and business organizations), Greentech, Roberts Family Development Center, project coordinators with the Morrison Creek revitalization project, a guided tour of the George Sim Community Center, Asian Resources Inc., Fruitridge Community Collaborative (where participants heard from the various nonprofits housed there), La Familia Counseling Center's Maple Neighborhood site, and the California Mobility Center.

There were a total of 12 administrators, 12 faculty, and 16 staff members who joined this year's bus tour from across colleges, departments, and divisions. This work could not have been done without the planning committee and co-chairs, as well as the CEC Team!



### Co-Chairs

Dr. Dana Kivel  
Dr. Erin Rose Ellison  
Noel Mora

### Planning Committee Members

Irina Alekseyeva	Dr. Jaime Jackson
Dr. Samantha Blackburn	Dr. Ann Moylan
Dr. Robin Dattel	Dr. Piram Prakasam
Dr. Kevin Ferreira Van Leer	Linda Ram
Stephanie Francis	Elisa Trimboli
Dr. Darcy Fudge	Dr. Mary Lee Vance
Dr. Rita Gallardo Good	Dr. Shannon Williams





**Marlene López Torres**

Marlene is a first-generation student majoring in Spanish and Ethnic Studies. She strives to receive her doctorate and help future Hispanic/Latinx students, as a way to give back to her community.



**Rebekah Williams**

Rebekah Williams is a master's student in the General Psychology program at California State University, Sacramento. Her concentration is developmental psychology and she will be graduating in May of 2024. Through her leadership, scholarship, and service, she is committed to aiding institutions with their diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

## 2023 Community Engagement Student Fellowship (CESF)

By Marlene López Torres and Rebekah Williams

The Community Engagement Center, in partnership with LEAD California, awarded student fellowships for the Spring Semester to Rebekah Williams and Marlene López Torres. LEAD California's Community Engagement Student Fellowship program (CESF) is a four-month initiative that supports student leaders who are practicing service, service-learning, and community engagement at campuses throughout the state. Through their service, students focus on addressing major issues confronting California and engage in providing direct service to the community. With support from LEAD California, the two fellows were able to participate in multiple campus projects and committees.

In addition to working with the Center on Race, Immigration and Social Justice (CRISJ) on the Community Empowerment Fair, they also supported Farmworkers Awareness Week, Literacy Empowerment Day, and hosted the state-wide CESF Showcase.

## Literacy Empowerment Day

By Marlene López Torres

One of the events the fellows participated in was the CRISJ Youth Literacy Empowerment Day. The purpose of this event was to empower historically marginalized youth by celebrating their culture and foundations of knowledge. The fellows spent a day with the local high school students participating in the event. They accompanied them through culturally rich workshops that developed their understanding of their identities in an academic setting.

Division of Student Affairs | Strategic Student Support Programs

2023 FARMWORKER AWARENESS WEEK

**SUPPLY DRIVE**

March 27 - April 7

We welcome brand-new:

- Bandanas
- Hats
- Beanies
- Socks
- Sunscreen
- Hand sanitizer
- Reusable water bottles

And:

- Gently-used clothes & shoes



Questions? Call (916) 278-5393 or email [sernacenter@csus.edu](mailto:sernacenter@csus.edu)

## Farmworkers Awareness Week

By Rebekah Williams

The Community Engagement Center (CEC) partnered with the Serna Center & College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) to host a Supply Drive for Farmworkers Awareness Week (FAW) at Sac State from Monday, March 27th to Friday, April 7th. Throughout the week, the Serna Center & CAMP also hosted a succession of events to highlight the strength and perseverance of farm-working individuals and communities. One of the main focal points of FAW was the ongoing Supply Drive that greatly benefited local farmworkers and farm-working communities.

## Community Engaged Student Fellowship Showcase

By Marlene López Torres

The Community Engaged Student Fellowship Showcase was a culminating event that the Sac State's CESF fellows hosted and at which they presented. Marlene and Rebekah welcomed LEAD California's associate director Piper McGinley, student fellows, and program directors from different universities across California. Universities represented were Sonoma State, and College of the Canyons. Students presented what they worked on throughout the semester of service. The discourse allowed for inspiration for future projects and sparked a conversation on future collaboration between universities.



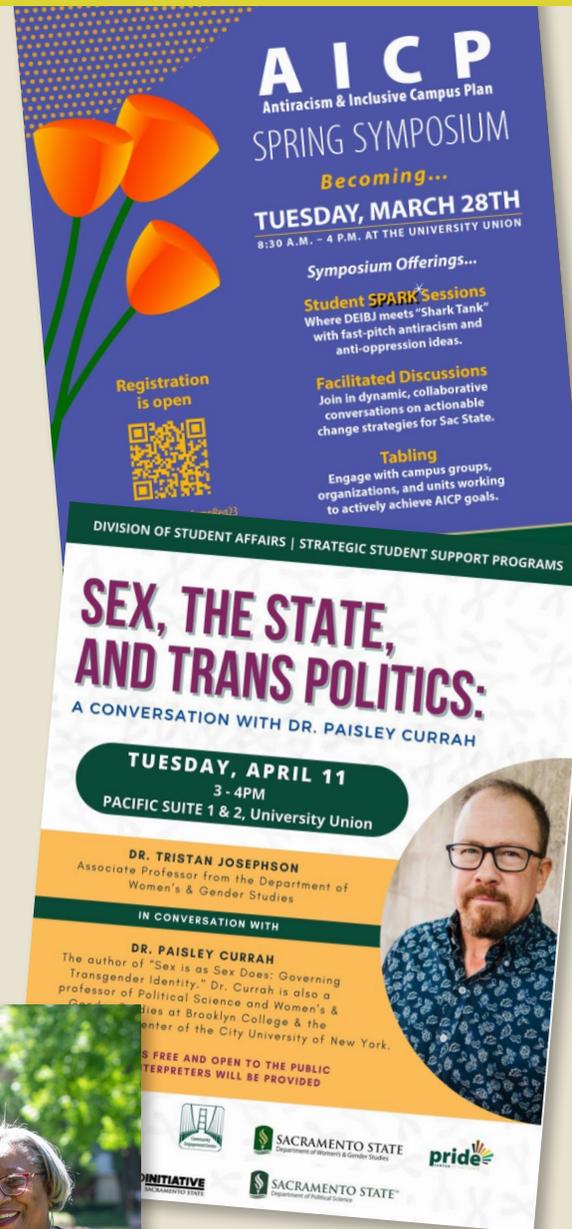
## Supporting Campus Events

A hallmark of the work we do is that of being a supportive partner with other programs and departments on campus. Included in this year's collaborations were the following.

Dr. Ann Moylan, Dr. Chong Choe-Smith, Noel Mora and Rachelle Davis presented at the Division of Inclusive Excellence's Anti-racism and Inclusive Campus (AIC) Spring Symposium on March 28th. Their presentation "Becoming Equity Centered in Community Engagement" was presented to a packed room of engaged students, faculty, staff and administrators. The 50-minute presentation included CEC's research into which students are participating in Academic Internships -- which racial groups are over-represented and which are under-represented in Academic Internships; how diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging and justice are being embedded into the definition and practice of Service Learning; and how three CEC programs -- Jumpstart, Network Café and Writing Partners -- have consciously and deliberately become more focused on equity and social justice.

CEC was a co-sponsor, along with the One World Initiative, the PRIDE Center, the Department of Women and Gender Studies, and the Department of Political Science, for a presentation entitled "Sex, The State, and Trans Politics: A Conversation with Dr. Paisley Currah" on April 11th. Dr. Tristan Josephson, Associate Professor, Department of Women's & Gender Studies, expertly facilitated the conversation. The Community Engagement Center oversaw book sales and many of the logistical arrangements, in addition to providing financial support for the event.

CEC supported the inaugural Juneteenth Celebration on campus June 13th by recruiting event volunteers and by participating with a table promoting CEC programs and events: Jumpstart, Network Café, and Student Volunteer Leaders.



## CEC Student Internship



**Tania Arriaga,**  
*CEC Student Intern*

Tania Arriaga, a third-year student majoring in Business Administration at Sacramento State, made a significant impact during her internship with the Community Engagement Center. Working alongside Resource Analyst, Irina Alekseyeva, Tania learned valuable business practices including budgeting and financial warehouse management. She submitted university clearances such as event notification forms and room reservation forms, took the lead on an outreach project, and presented to First Year Experience students. This hands-on experience allowed her to further develop communication, leadership, and problem-solving skills—which are all critical skills for any career. She demonstrated these traits by effectively communicating the goals and objectives of her designated project to other individuals which ensured the success of the assignment. Aside from the skills she gained while interning, Tania’s prior experience and expertise with Microsoft programs and project management brought great value to the team. Overall, she was able to apply classroom learning to real-world situations, gaining a better understanding of how business operations are applied in a business setting.

## CEC Welcomes Sherell Branch & Noel Mora



**Sherell Branch,**  
*Volunteer Program Specialist*

Sherell Branch (she, her) is the Volunteer Program Specialist at the Community Engagement Center (CEC). She came into this role in July of 2022 with a degree in Social Sciences from Mercer University, experience as Community Outreach Liaison with the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District’s Healthy Start Family Resource Center, and as a Program Manager with Napa & Solano County’s Girls on the Run empowerment program. She stepped into this role with a passion to build partnerships at Sac State and in the community to provide volunteer events for students, staff, faculty and alumni to become and stay engaged in the community. Furthermore, she took leadership roles in hosting events that emphasize networking with community organizations and civic engagement. These events include the CEC’s annual Civic Engagement Resource Fair and monthly Network Cafés. Sherell Branch has helped CEC raise the voices of many on campus and in the community, being ever attentive to representation, inclusion, equity, and belonging.



**Noel Mora,**  
*Community Partnership Coordinator*

Noel Mora (he, him) is the Community Partnership Coordinator with the CEC. Noel joined Team CEC in September 2022 and provides support for various programs, including Academic Internships and Service-Learning, Writing Partners, and the Hornet Community Bus Tour. He also assists faculty and campus partners in navigating the Community Partner Agreement process and the CEC Connect database. Noel is also “Made at Sac State,” having obtained both his Bachelors and Master’s Degrees from Sacramento State. He is the former coordinator of the Serna Center, an active alum and community volunteer, and spends much of his time working with many local nonprofits and groups. Notably, Noel is also an elected school board member. Noel is passionate about facilitating connections between students, faculty, staff, and members of the campus community, with individuals that are doing important work in our region. Noel has been instrumental in guiding CEC toward more intentionally equitable practices and providing leadership by example in civic engagement.

# Faculty Associates 2022-2023 AY



## Dr. Chong Choe-Smith

*Faculty Associate for Service Learning (CSLI) and Curricular Community-Engaged Learning (CCEL)*

Dr. Chong Choe-Smith reviewed and approved all submitted course materials for faculty seeking CSLI course designation or CCEL course designation. She communicated with Service Learning faculty regarding Service Learning pedagogy, the course approval process and approval status. Dr. Choe-Smith responded to inquiries from faculty on various issues related to Service Learning, Community Partners, and CECconnect; conducted Service Learning student site evaluations in Fall 2022, and held a series of three informational sessions, Service Learning Workshops, for faculty in spring 2023. In addition, Dr. Choe-Smith

- Presented with Casey Knifsend, "Developing Accessible & Mutually Beneficial Virtual Community Engagement Learning Opportunities," at the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) conference in San Diego in October 2022.
- Published an article, with Casey Knifsend, "Developing Equitable and Mutually Beneficial Virtual Community-Engaged Learning Opportunities," *Metropolitan Universities Journal* 33(4) (2022). doi: <https://doi.org/10.18060/26369>
- Co-presented with Ann Moylan, Rachele Davis, and Noel Mora, "Becoming Equity Centered in Community Engagement," at the Anti-racism and Inclusive Action Plan Spring Symposium in March 2023.



## Dr. Casey Knifsend

*Faculty Associate for Academic Internships (ACADI)*

Dr. Casey Knifsend led CEC's efforts to support faculty offering Academic Internships and to assess internship opportunities in the community. She provided outreach to faculty and department coordinators and conducted two fall 2022 surveys: one of Community Partners' opportunities for students and one of Departments' Academic Internship program requirements. Dr. Knifsend conducted Academic Internship evaluations in spring 2023. In addition, Dr. Knifsend

- Held a series of three informational sessions for faculty on Academic Internships
- Presented at the fall 2022 Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) conference in San Diego (title: Developing Equitable and Mutually Beneficial Virtual Community-Engaged Learning Opportunities)
- Published an article (based on CUMU presentation) in *Metropolitan Universities Journal*

# Faculty Associates

## 2022-2023 AY



### Dr. Erin Rose Ellison

*Faculty Associate for Community-Based Research (CBR)*

Dr. Erin Rose Ellison has provided leadership in moving the Community Engagement Center toward a more active role in supporting faculty and students who are engaged in or interested in becoming engaged in community-based research. Throughout the year she responded to inquiries and provided consultation for faculty and staff on community-based research, community engaged learning more broadly, and partnership development. In addition, Dr. Ellison

- Held a series of three informational sessions for faculty on CBR
- Served as co-chair of the Planning Committee for the Hornet Community Bus Tour
- Presented at the fall 2022 Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) conference in San Diego (title: Building Institutional Support for Community-Based Research: Early Steps in an Ongoing Journey)
- Planned, designed, and delivered the inaugural professional development training for the Anchor University Initiative's Spring 2023 Lunch and Learn -- Developing a collaborative anchor lens: Avoiding the dangers of a deficit approach to partnering with communities.
- Consulted with Anchor staff regarding professional development on evaluation, curriculum development, active learning, pacing, etc.
- Provided consultation to Anchor staff on institutional support for faculty engagement in the Anchor Initiative, particularly regarding Community-Based Research.
- Presented on partnerships and Community-Based Research at the CEC Showcase (title: The Morrison Creek Partnership: Community Development in Action).



### Dr. Kevin Ferreira Van Leer

*Faculty Associate for Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (Fall 2022)*

This year CEC partnered with Anchor University office and the Division of Inclusive Excellence to bring on a new Faculty Associate for Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.

Dr. Kevin Ferreira Van Leer, Associate Professor in Child and Adolescent Development, helped us assess, align and shape the work of the CEC with a lens for DEI in policy, procedures and practices.

In addition, Dr. Ferreira

- Co-presented at the fall 2022 Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) conference in San Diego
- Co-facilitated a Faculty Learning Community with the Center for Teaching and Learning in fall 2022 and spring 2023
- Planned, designed, and delivered the inaugural professional development training for the Anchor University Initiative's Spring 2023 Lunch and Learn -- Developing a collaborative anchor lens: Avoiding the dangers of a deficit approach to partnering with communities
- Consulted with Anchor staff regarding professional development on evaluation, curriculum development, active learning, pacing, etc.

## Community Engagement Center Staff



**Ann Moylan, Ph.D., CCLS, CFLE,**  
*Director and Professor, Family Studies  
& Human Development*



**Irina Alekseyeva,**  
*Resource Analyst*



**Sherell Branch,**  
*Volunteer Program Specialist*



**Noel Mora,**  
*Community Partnership  
Coordinator*



**Rachelle Davis, M.A.,**  
*Jumpstart Site Manager*



**Tania Arriaga,**  
*Student Intern*



**Favianna Munoz,**  
*Student Assistant*



**Daisy Munguia,**  
*Student Assistant*



**Irasema Garcia,**  
*Student Assistant*



**Giselle Moreno,**  
*Jumpstart Program  
Student Assistant*



**Araceli Gabriel,**  
*Jumpstart Program  
Student Assistant*

## Faculty Associates



**Casey Knifsend, Ph.D.,**  
*Faculty Associate for Academic  
Internships and Associate Professor,  
Psychology*



**Chong Choe-Smith, Ph.D., JD,**  
*Faculty Associate for Curricular  
Community-Engaged Learning and  
Associate Professor, Philosophy*



**Erin Rose Ellison, Ph.D.,**  
*Faculty Associate for  
Community-Based Research and  
Associate Professor, Psychology*



**Kevin Ferreira Van Leer, Ph.D.,**  
*Faculty Associate for Anti-racism,  
DEI and Belonging and Associate  
Professor, Child and Adolescent  
Development*



## Concluding Remarks

We invite you to join the CEC in any of the programs that interest you. We can help you make connections on campus and in the community; we can help you advance your teaching/learning, research and service goals. Please think of us as YOUR Community Engagement Center. Let's make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of our students, faculty, staff, community-based organizations, businesses, education, and government!

This year we welcomed two new program leaders, Sherell Branch and Noel Mora, who brought vast experience and important community connections for the work of the center. Their work was preceded by two interim specialists: Anthony Fajardo, Interim Student and Volunteer Specialist, and Antoine Burks, Interim Community Partnership Coordinator, who did a tremendous job of keeping programs and procedures moving during our transitional period.

Highly valued on our team are Irina Alekseyeva, Resource Analyst; Rachelle Davis, Jumpstart Site Manager; student assistants: Tania Arriaga, Araceli Gabriel, Irasema Garcia, Daisy Munguia, Favianna Munoz, and Giselle Morena; our extraordinary faculty associates: Dr. Chong Choe-Smith, Dr. Erin-Rose Ellison, Dr. Kevin Ferreira Van Leer, and Dr. Casey Knifsend; and our essential and generous faculty affiliates: Dr. Vanessa Arnaud, Dr. Alicia Herrera, and Dr. Dana Kivel.

This is the team that makes the magic happen! I cannot thank them enough for their dedication, energy, enthusiasm, and support!



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## Contact Us

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