Mitzvah is a Hebrew word that means "good deed." And, when I reflect on the work of the CEC, I'm incredibly proud of the CEC Faculty Associates, staff, student assistants and the thousands of volunteers (students, faculty, staff and alumni) who, year after year, do so many mitzvot (plural of mitzvah). CEC is also proud to be part of President Nelsen's Anchor University Task Force; and in May, CEC will host an inaugural Community Engagement Showcase to highlight signature community engagement projects, events and activities of faculty, staff and students from across campus. Starting in early August, I will be away from the CEC until January of 2020 and an interim Director will be named in May. I have been awarded a sabbatical to assess the impact of Service Learning on students, faculty and community partners so I will be in touch. We hope you enjoy this newsletter which highlights the mitzvot of the Center and of Sac State's volunteers. Stingers Up!
Since 2014, the Community Engagement Center has partnered with NeighborWorks Sacramento to participate in its annual Paint the Town neighborhood uplift event. More than 79 Sac State students, faculty, staff, including President Robert Nelsen, showed up on Saturday, September 15th to paint houses, dig up weeds, plant gardens and do other home improvement activities in Del Paso Heights. Sac State volunteers did a great job at this event and many said that felt they made a difference in this community. Homeowners were also grateful for the work of Sac State’s volunteers.

"I'm out here today to help the community that I'm a part of."

-David Tyler, Volunteer
Resource Fair

KAYLA BROWN, CEC STUDENT ASSISTANT

On October 18, 2018, the Community Engagement Center hosted its third annual Community and Civic Engagement Resource Fair in the library quad. CEC invited government, 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 14 community partners at this event, six focused on voter registration and, together, they registered 50 voters before the midterm election. More than 300 students visited the various booths and community partners enjoyed being able to interact with students and with others to see who they might want to partner with in the future.

“Tabling at the Resource Fair was great because of the students, they were curious, they often know when they need to register or re-register, and they came up to us with questions.”
-Laura Anderson from Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections

Community Engagement Student Fellows

YUSUF CAN, CEC STUDENT ASSISTANT

During his 2018 Fall Address, President Robert S. Nelsen announced that Sacramento State will become an “Anchor” University -- this designation means that the campus will be working more strategically and collaboratively with community partners to respond to community needs. As a part of this process, President Nelsen created an Anchor Task Force which is doing inventories of campus community engagement activities and convening meetings with community partners to discuss how to work together on this initiative. To ensure that students would be included in this process, the Community Engagement Center applied for and received a grant from California Campus Compact’s Community Engagement Student Fellowship program. The program provides two $500 scholarship awards to two students who will participate in campus-related community engagement activities.

The two Community Engagement Students Fellows for 2018-2019 are: Ariel Espinoza, a third year sociology student from Sacramento; and Amy Dias, a first year Psychology grad student from Stockton.

Since February, the two Fellows have worked closely with the Anchor Task Force to complete its work and they also worked with the Community Engagement Center on its Alternative Break program, Community Engagement Showcase and end of year event, Brunch and Conversation about the Anchor University initiative. Congratulations to Sac State’s first California Campus Compact Community Engagement Student Fellows!
November was a tough month for many Californians, especially our neighbors to the north in Paradise and Chico, as the Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, claimed many lives and ravaged communities and forests. Overnight, thousands of people lost everything -- homes, cars, personal belongings – and found themselves without shelter, food, and transportation.

The fires were devastating, as was the smoke that made its way down to the Sacramento area, forcing Sac State to close its doors for two weeks due to health and safety concerns from the deadly smoke. This campus closure was also an unprecedented event in the history of the university. Yet, despite the campus closure, 27 Sac State students, staff and faculty showed up on November 19th and 20th to volunteer with River City Food Bank (RCFB) during their annual Thanksgiving Turkey distribution event. The activities of those two days were simple: package and hand out food. Yet, for many of those standing in line to receive food, including those affected by the wildfires, this assistance was critical to their basic survival. Over the two days, 600 families and 1,335 people received food assistance. Approximately 620 turkeys were distributed. RCFB works year-round to provide food assistance to children, seniors, people with disabilities and the working poor. For more information and/or to volunteer, please contact email@rivercityfoodbank.org

"I am thrilled to hear that we were able to give out more turkeys than what we did in previous years."
-Volunteer
Homeless Point in Time Count

ISABEL IBARRA, RESOURCE ANALYST

The importance of giving back can be seen year round at Sacramento State. Whether it is helping beautify neighborhoods through the Paint the Town event or cleaning up the river trail during Alternative Spring Break, our students’ willingness to engage with the community is proven time and again. When the announcement was made that Sacramento Steps Forward was looking for volunteers to participate in the Homeless Point-In-Time (PIT), the Community Engagement Center rose to the occasion by helping recruit student volunteers. Every few years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires local communities to coordinate a census of persons experiencing homelessness in their counties. Known as the Homeless Point-In-Time count, this nationwide effort takes place in January, typically the coldest month of the year. The Homeless Point-In-Time serves two purposes: 1) to do a count of all unsheltered individuals; and 2) conduct an interview, if possible, to collect information vital to allocating resources to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

"You find out they’re not all inebriates or drug addicts. ... It’s, ‘I lost a job, lost rent, then ran out of gas’ and then they stay in their car but then it got towed away."

-Dennis Brodsky, volunteer team leader

In Sacramento, the Point-In-Time count was led by Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF), a local non-profit organization devoted to ending homelessness in Sacramento. SSF worked closely with Dr. Arturo Baiocchi, an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social Work to recruit Sac State students, staff and faculty. Dr. Baiocchi reached out to CEC Senior Partnership Coordinator, Francine Redada, to see how CEC could assist in this effort. CEC provided its database, CECconnect, as the portal through which all Sac State community members could register for the two-day event, which took place on January 29th and 30th. During the two days, almost 1,000 volunteers, 200 of which were from Sac State, met at the Sacramento State Downtown Center and were deployed in teams of four to selected areas of Sacramento County.
"Me too" founder visits Sac State

ANGELICA MARTINEZ, CEC STUDENT ASSISTANT

The Community Engagement Center (CEC) was proud to be one of several sponsors of UNIQUE’s program featuring Tarana Burke, founder of the "me too" movement. Burke, a social justice activist and survivor, visited Sacramento State on February 7, 2019 to talk about her personal story. Burke is involved in public speaking events to raise awareness about sexual violence, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

Burke discussed the history and impact of the movement that she started 13 years ago. The "me too" movement has impacted the way men acknowledge their past behavior toward women and the way employers are forced to make changes and improvements to sexual harassment policies. It all began with a young girl who confided in Burke and told her about being sexually assaulted. Burke was stunned and had difficulty telling the young girl that she understood her pain. She wished she had told the young girl "me too," as Burke never saw her again after that interaction.

Burke shared a powerful message with the audience about helping survivors who are struggling to come forward and speak up. Helping survivors find resources that may help them is incredibly important as well as reassuring them that they are not alone. That is what the "me too" movement is all about. Several students lined up for Burke’s Q&A where they asked for her advice on how to make the Sacramento community feel safer and more protected. She asserted that if people do not feel safe or protected, then they need to “demand it.” Burke’s bravery and resilience inspires us to take action by sharing our experiences with others and demanding change. If you or someone you know is in need of resources and support, please contact: Sacramento State Confidential Advocate at www.csus.edu/sexualviolence.

"Let’s heal together. You need to demand protection in your community."
-Tarana Burke
During Spring Break, the week of March 18th, the Community Engagement Center (CEC) partnered with Sac State Sustainability to bring together students and sustainability staff and Construction Management faculty to help make our campus more environmentally friendly. Students distributed compost and mulch around campus, helped to build a deck for the solar house in the Arboretum and weeded and cleaned tree and garden beds in the library quad as well as in the community garden at Capital Public Radio.

More than 45 students volunteered throughout the week to support our campus commitment to environmental sustainability. Lunch for volunteers was provided by ASI. The staff and faculty who participated were grateful for the hard work of our volunteers and we look forward to working with Sac State Sustainability efforts in the future.

"There's something to be said, and it's highly recommendable for students to come in and invest their time into the school."
-Joey Martinez
Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator
Service Learning

Service Learning is a teaching method that faculty use to help students deepen their understanding of course material. During the 2018-2019 academic year, approximately 3,000 students participated in service learning courses at more than 100 community partner sites. We had 10 faculty complete a Faculty Learning Communities (FLC) in Service Learning in December and 12 faculty joined a new FLC in January.

Writing Partners

The Writing Partners Program @ 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. In the fall of 2018, 10 faculty (14 courses) were paired with 14 elementary school teachers. More than 375 Sac State students exchanged 3-4 letters with 399 5th and 6th grade students from schools in six school districts around Sacramento: Center USD, Elk Grove USD, Eureka USD, Folsom Cordova USD, Sacramento City USD and Twin Rivers USD.

Academic Internships

An Academic Internship (AI) is an on or off-campus activity designed to serve educational purposes by offering experience in business, non-profit or government settings for academic credit. It is a stand-alone course that formally integrates the student’s academic study with practical experience in a cooperating organization. The CEC has trained more than 60 faculty, staff and administrators about Academic Internship requirements, partnership agreements and using the CECconnect database to track students doing AIs. An Academic Internship Toolkit can be found on the CEC website: www.csus.edu/cec/.
Francine Redada

CEC PROFILE: SENIOR PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR

Greetings! My name is Francine Redada and I am the Senior Partnership Coordinator (SPC) for the CEC. I will celebrate 5 years at the CEC in April. For the past four years, I have been a Partnership/Program Coordinator but was recently promoted to Senior Partnership Coordinator (SPC). As the SPC, my job is to identify and develop connections with community organizations with whom Sac State can partner to create curricular community engagement opportunities for our students -- Service Learning and Academic Internships. This past year alone, I worked with Procurement and Contract Services to secure more than 90 Academic Internship-Service Learning (IN-SL) Agreements with new community partners. We also secured a blanket agreement with California State Parks, which has more than 275 sites throughout the state. This means that Sac State students can participate in Service Learning and/or Academic Internship opportunities at any State Park site.

I am originally from Daly City, California, and have been living in Sacramento since 2014. I have more than 10 years of experience in program/project management, service learning, experiential education and civic engagement. I enjoy my job, especially connecting community partners with the university. Whether it is by connecting a fifth grade class with Engineering students to participate in Writing Partners (letter exchange program) or organizing a week of sustainability projects with Sac State Sustainability for our Alternative Spring Break, I value the collaboration between on and off campus partners.

Isabel Ibarra

CEC PROFILE: RESOURCE ANALYST

Isabel Ibarra joined the CEC staff in August of 2018 as our Resource Analyst. Isabel has worked in administrative support in higher education for six years. Prior to working at CEC, Isabel worked as Operations Manager in the Office of Admissions & Outreach at Sacramento State. She’s been involved in planning events that promote higher education to under represented populations. Isabel holds a bachelor of science in Business Administration and is currently enrolled in a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program at Sac State. Isabel is passionate about community and is committed to helping others.
Sac State is committed to doing community engagement work and to highlight some of the great work done by faculty, staff and students, CEC was scheduled to host an Inaugural Community Engagement Showcase event on May 2nd at the Lobby Suite of the Student Union. More than 22 faculty and staff submitted posters that highlighted a signature community engagement project, event or an activity from this past academic year. Here are a few of the posters submitted for the event.
Highlights from 2018-2019

Paint The Town 2018

River City Food Bank 2018

Resource Fair 2018

Homeless Point-In-Time Count 2019

Alternative Break 2019
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 served 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.

Contact Us:
Community Engagement Center
Telephone: (916) 278-4610
E-mail: cec@csus.edu
Visit us on the web at www.csus.edu/cec