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Sac State again honored for community service

For the fifth consecutive year, Sacramento State has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The announcement was made Monday at the American Council on Education’s annual conference in Washington.

“Community service performed by students at Sac State benefits a student’s learning as much, if not more, than the service rendered to the community at large,” says Charles W. Gossett, Sacramento State’s interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “We are glad that we can provide an early opportunity for them to learn the reciprocal benefits of service.”

Sacramento State’s strategic plan spells out its commitment to community enhancement, supportive learning, scholarship and creative activity while advancing the interests and goals of the greater Sacramento metropolitan region.

The University had to provide evidence of “meaningful outcomes” for the services it provides to the community. These projects were included in the CNCS application:

Community Engagement Center’s Service Learning Program: An estimated 2,150 students provided 74,917 service learning hours to 133 nonprofit, faith-based, education and government partners during the 12-month period ending June 30, 2012. Based on the national volunteer index of $21.79 per hour, the students’ service would be valued at $1,632,431. Faculty and staff volunteered an estimated 3,000 hours.

Pediatric Nursing Students Serve: Within the baccalaureate nursing program is a pediatric nursing laboratory course that requires 25-35 hours of service-learning activity at a single community agency in the Sacramento region. Eighty-four students provided in excess of 2,100 hours of service to at least 1,290 individuals. Their efforts included tutoring and mentoring elementary schoolchildren, helping in classrooms, serving as “side-walkers” for children with special needs in an equine therapy program, and performing health screenings at food-distribution sites. In addition, 62 students volunteered at summer camps for special-needs children.

Expanding Their Horizons: Sacramento State’s Center for STEM Excellence, along with the campus-based nonprofit Women of AT&T, hosted the fifth annual
Expanding Your Horizons Conference in 2011. The one-day math-and-science conference encourages and empowers girls in sixth through eighth grades to pursue an education and a career in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines. An estimated 1,650 girls from disenfranchised communities have attended the conference over the past five years.

For more information about the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, visit http://myproject.nationalservice.gov/honorroll/Default.aspx. For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156.

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Sacramento State is making a difference in California’s Capital Region and beyond. We offer a life-changing opportunity for our 28,000 students, preparing them to be leaders in their professions and communities. Our professors are known for their dedication to great teaching. And our location in the capital of the nation’s most populous state allows students to pursue unique internships and research.