

Goal 5: Engaging with the Region
Part 1

Community-based learning opportunities for students, offered in a variety of creative and innovative experiences, across the entire curriculum.

Richter Center Established

On November 13, 2007, the CSU Trustees formally approved the naming and formation of the *Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning*. With the Richter's pledged \$3.5 million endowment and their commitment to provide \$50,000 per year for the next three years to develop the Center, Fresno State is the first CSU and one of the only named community engagement centers in the nation. The Richter Center will provide enhanced programs that promote service-oriented partnerships between the university and the region's nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations.

Increase in Service-Learning

California State University, Fresno has long been recognized as a leader in community engagement and service-learning. The Carnegie Foundation's decision to select Fresno State as one of the first in the nation to earn their "Community Engagement" classification is one proof of our leadership in this field. In 2007-08, the university offered more service-learning classes than ever before. This year, there were 158 service-learning classes offered at Fresno State, a 25% increase from 2006-07. This year, over 3,800 students in service-learning courses will provide an estimated 88,000 hours of service to the community.

President's Honor Roll Award

In February of 2008, The Corporation for National and Community Service selected Fresno State as one of four institutions across the nation to receive a new *Special Achievement Award* for outstanding service by a minority-serving institution. This is a prestigious national award that is part of the 2007 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

Literacy Service Efforts

The university community is involved in a number of service-oriented efforts that address PreK-12 literacy and school success. There are a number of service-learning classes which directly or indirectly target literacy. The university has also been a strong supporter of the ReadFresno project.

Two projects coordinated by the university that engage a large number of students are the Fresno READS and Jumpstart Fresno programs. A few indicators of the impact of these two programs are:

- **Fresno READS** has involved 43 students in ongoing, in-depth tutoring of K-6 student. By the end of this academic year, these students will provide approximately 12,000 hours of service, benefiting more than 312 children.

- **Jumpstart Fresno** involved a total of 102 students, about 30 of which were from Fresno City College. These students will provide in excess of 30,000 hours of service, directly working with approximately 350 children.

- **Jumpstart Fresno** teamed with the Arne Nixon Center to bring noted children's author Yuyi Morales to campus in October 2007. In April 2008, Valley Public Television featured Jumpstart Fresno students at the Joyce M. Huggins Center for their "0 to 5 in 30 Minutes" show.

Service-based Scholarships and Grants

Two unique service-based scholarship and grant programs will together involve 207 students in activities, who will contribute nearly 25,000 hours of service to the community. In addition, these programs provide financially needy students with over \$337,000 to support their education.

- **The Community Service Scholarship Program (CSSP)**, founded in 1990 by Marjorie and H. Marc Radin, has been a cornerstone of our university's community engagement efforts for over 15 years. The program provides scholarships for California State University, Fresno students who demonstrate a significant commitment to community service. CSSP service assignments are structured to relate to a student's academic major. Each student performs a minimum of 150 hours with a designated nonprofit agency. Upon completion of their assignments, students earn 3 units of academic credit and a \$1,500 scholarship. During 07-08, 65 students and 27 donor agencies participated in the CSSP, providing the community with over 9,500 volunteer hours and providing students with \$97,500 in scholarships.

- **The Scholars Service Grant (SSG)** program enhances academic study with civic engagement opportunities in the university or community. Renewable grants of \$960 are awarded to participating students who complete 60 hours of service per semester at an approved service site. In order to qualify, students must have significant unmet financial need (as determined by Financial Aid) and must be high achieving academically (3.5 cumulative GPA for new students and 3.2 cumulative GPA for continuing students). During 07-08, the SSG grants were increased from \$750 per semester to \$960 per semester and the numbers of student participants increased from 100 per semester to 125 per semester, raising the budget from \$150,000 per year to \$240,000 per year. Over the two semesters, 142 students participated in SSG, providing the university and community with over 15,000 volunteer hours.

American Humanics

Fresno State's American Humanics program is one of the strongest AH programs in the nation, regularly garnering national recognition and attention. This certificate program in nonprofit management currently involves over 60 Fresno State students. In addition to fulfilling academic competency areas related to nonprofit management, AH students must also complete a minimum of 300 hours in a nonprofit internship setting.

A survey of Fresno State AH alumni conducted in fall 2007 found, among many positive outcomes, that:

- 91% agreed or strongly agreed that "The American Humanics Program prepared me to step into a leadership role" in the community.
- 97% agreed or strongly agreed that "The American Humanics Program gave me the knowledge to be a successful professional."
- 63% agreed or strongly agreed that "The American Humanics Program led me to a career in the nonprofit sector."

Community-Based Research

For the past three years, with the assistance of the Provost's Office and outside funders, faculty involvement in community-based action research has been enhanced. This type of research explicitly involves community partners in the conceptualizing and conducting of research, as well as in resulting "action" taken as a result of that research. In 2007-08, four such research projects were funded:

- Benjamin Boone, Music, conducted a study focused on the effectiveness and identified revisions of a partnership between the Music Department and Teilman Education Center (Fresno County Office of Education). This project includes the Music 40 service-learning class instructed by Dr. Boone.
- Betsy Hays, Mass Communications and Journalism, is conducting the *Full Circle Diversity Research: Exploring the Complete National Park Experience* project to help analyze barriers and incentives to increasing minority populations visitation of the region's National Parks.
- James Mulooly, Anthropology, and his students are implementing and studying the *Pixley Robotic Club* project, with the intent of assessing and supporting science and math education in rural communities.
- Klaus Tenbergen, Food Science and Nutrition, is involved with research related to the development of the *Read and Eat Academy*. This project involves University Food Services and students in Dr. Tenbergen's Culinology program in an effort to provide nutritious meals, nutrition education and English language training to low-income, non-native English speaking individuals living in the neighborhoods near Fresno State.

During the recent "Continuums of Service Conference" in Portland, OR, five faculty members presented workshops on their service-learning and/or community-based research findings. In June 2008, nine faculty members will present at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) "American Democracy Project" annual conference. This is another indication of the outstanding service and engaged research being conducted by Fresno State faculty and students.

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Goal 5: Engaging with the Region

Part 1 Reaching out through student learning

Service Learning

American Humanics

Community-Based Research

Part 2 Reaching out through partnerships

Regional Jobs Initiative
www.fresnorji.org/

California Partnership and OCED
[www.sjvpartnership.org/uploaded.files/Doc/2007Annual Report.pdf](http://www.sjvpartnership.org/uploaded.files/Doc/2007Annual%20Report.pdf)

Lyles Center for Entrepreneurship

Part 3 Reaching out through Athletics

Development of Gender-Equity Plans

Development of NCAA Certification Document

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