

California State University, Center for Community Engagement Community-Based Research E-Publication

INTRODUCTION

Two very successful regional conferences in March 2010, showcased community based research (CBR) in the California State University (CSU). In these two one-day conferences, held respectively in the San Francisco Bay Area and Southern California, participants had the opportunity to engage in a series of participatory CBR workshops, dialogues and research forums.

The projects told of the many ways that CSU researchers have studied real-world questions in partnership with groups, organizations and individuals in a community. These projects certainly change and influence every direct participant, but if other researchers learn how they evolved, there will be a multiplier effect. For that to happen, information about good planning, cooperative action, lessons learned, and applications derived from these projects should be widely shared.

This e-publication highlights more than 40 CBR projects involving partnerships between CSU campuses and local, national and global communities. The peer-chosen "Blue Ribbon Award" projects are of special interest for their clarity of purpose and execution, and they may serve both as inspiration and as highly applicable approaches to similar questions, populations or situations in numerous settings.

It is also hoped that these accounts may show our progress toward the goal of campuses and communities to collaborate more equitably as co-researchers to address significant social issues, to promote learning and development, and to advance the creation and dissemination of knowledge.

Descriptions of the Blue Ribbon Award CBR projects appear at the beginning, followed by an alphabetical presentation by campus.

The Bracero Oral History Project of California State University, Channel Islands
BLUE RIBBON AWARD WINNER

In 2008, California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI) joined the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History to document and preserve the bracero experience. The Bracero History Project has collected over 700 interviews and dozens of photographs, documents and artifacts that tell the story of the largest guest-worker program in U.S. history.

The Bracero Program brought approximately 4.5 million Mexican male workers into the United States, impacting immigration patterns, labor organizing efforts, inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic community relations, family dynamics and gender relations.

CSUCI joined with local community centers, high schools, art galleries, historical museums and Latino organizations. Each of these community partners publicized town hall meetings held in Oxnard and Santa Paula to introduce the Bracero History Project to the local Latino community in Ventura County. Community partners and CSUCI faculty and staff collaborated in the process of locating people to be interviewed as well.

As part of this national project, CSUCI offered several service-learning courses to students in Chicano Studies, Spanish, and Art. Students, including descendants of braceros, followed the lives of ex-braceros by duplicating photos and documents, and also organized town-halls. A local exhibit titled "Ventura County's Bracero Legacy," will be organized by CSUCI students and will complement the Smithsonian's national exhibition.

A key lesson learned from this project was to consider current needs in their political context as part of the study. For example, ex-braceros asked how CSUCI could help them claim the 10% of wages withheld from their paychecks that they never received. Researchers also came to understand how the braceros' stories shed light on the current political debate over the guest-worker program and immigration reform.

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Key words: immigrants, Chicano/Latino/Mexican, town hall meeting, Southern California, museum, history

**Disaster Preparedness in San Francisco
BLUE RIBBON AWARD WINNER**

Disaster Preparedness for Vulnerable Populations (DPVP) was a multi-year action–research partnership combining a San Francisco State University (SFSU) service-learning outreach program with a pre- and post telephone survey of local senior citizens receiving home care from In-Home Supportive Services Public Agency (IHSS). The project was undertaken to better prepare this vulnerable population for the inevitability of an earthquake.

The key partner was IHSS, which employs and assigns home care providers to eligible individuals. Its staff met regularly with SFSU faculty to design the survey questionnaire. These meetings were complemented by focus group interviews of service providers to identify their challenges in preparing the seniors.

In year one, a random sample of the target group was surveyed by telephone. Subsequently, through a service-learning program, nursing students visited the seniors throughout San Francisco and introduced them to the Vial of Life, a program for recording essential personal data to help first responders to act quickly in an emergency.

In year two, a follow-up survey was conducted with the outreach group to measure the impact of the program. The study found significant gains in preparedness levels on multiple scales. The project serves as a model that combines a pedagogical approach to providing service and a research effort to measure impact and discover additional qualities concerning vulnerability and outreach. Students gained a deeper understanding of the needs and assets of local communities. Faculty were provided an opportunity for professional growth, and community partners benefited in improved disaster preparedness.

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Key words: disaster preparedness, seniors, service learning combined with research

**Grassroots Grammar
BLUE RIBBON AWARD WINNER**

California State University, San Marcos faculty have collaborated in a language documentation project for the Ixil (pronounced [eesheel]) Maya language. Since 2005, six US- and Guatemala-based linguists and anthropologists have partnered with a group 54 Ixil speakers living in Guatemala to create a tri-lingual reference grammar of Ixil.

The Ixil speakers are diverse in occupation, education, and ages, but the younger members tend to be more educated and bilingual in Ixil and Spanish. Faculty have trained volunteers to work with small groups on linguistic analysis, where participants develop technical terms in Ixil used to analyze and explain grammatical constructions. They also transcribe and translate most recorded meetings and narratives into Spanish, add them to the database, and conduct the linguistic analysis. In bi-annual visits, faculty observe and support their progress.

As participants take ownership of the project, they practice reading and writing in their language and share this knowledge with their children. Production of the grammar will benefit the larger Ixil community. Language students in the US benefit indirectly as academic classwork is derived from the project. The project may also serve as a model for building community participation and leadership in other language revitalization programs.

The trilingual grammar of Ixil goes beyond research grammars of indigenous languages that appear only in European languages. In addition, the two versions have different purposes. While the English/Spanish version will be used in an academic setting, the Ixil version will be a tool for the community. Since formal education in Guatemala is conducted almost entirely in Spanish, the participants intend to disseminate the grammar widely in their community, as it will fill an important education and cultural gap.

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Key words: Cultural preservation, language, Central America, international

**San Francisco Police Department Community Engagement Project
BLUE RIBBON AWARD WINNER**

In a project made possible through emerging partnerships within the local community, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) strives to build safe and inclusive neighborhoods, especially amid today's rapidly growing non-English speaking immigrant population. Using the Ingleside district as a model, the purpose of this project was to develop a culturally competent communication strategy for effective community engagement between police and residents.

Key partners contributing to the project included San Francisco State University (SFSU) faculty and students, SFPD, the Commissions and Strategic Initiatives offices at San Francisco City Hall, and numerous Ingleside leaders and activists.

Initially, the SFPD approached SFSU faculty to invite MBA students to undertake community-based research in conjunction with larger efforts already underway.

A four-student team was given immediate access to the Ingleside district police and

a network of local community leaders in order to conduct quantitative and qualitative research. Community leaders opened networks for direct interaction with residents whose opinions formed the bedrock of the project's conclusions.

The research findings addressed the root cause of Ingleside's issues and provided a clear path to resolving them. The SFSU students learned how to conduct a comprehensive marking plan for improved community-police interactions and also gained experience in research techniques and client management. The SFPD and city government received well-defined recommendations for better engaging the multi-cultural community, and the immigrant residents felt their voices were heard.

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Key words: law enforcement, immigrants, community engagement, San Francisco

**Cambodian Community History: Archive Project
Blue Ribbon Award Semi-Finalist**

Anthropology faculty from the California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) and Long Beach (CSULB) campuses collaborated with the Historical Society of Long Beach to create a research center, the Cambodian Community History and Archive Project (CamCHAP), the purpose of which is to build and sustain long-term relationships between the institutional partners and the Long Beach Cambodian community. CamCHAP's other community partners include its major funder, the Long Beach Community Foundation, and Cambodian Town, Inc.

Because of its location at the historical society, CamCHAP is accessible to students, researchers, and community members. Long-range goals for the research center include a multi-lingual website; a satellite classroom for training in community-based research; collaborative community programs; and paid student internships in ethnographic and historical research.

Several collaborative projects have already been undertaken through CamCHAP. In addition to working with faculty researchers and community members to create the archive and website, CSU students have conducted interviews and collected materials for the publication, *Cambodians in Long Beach*, a journal of refugee and immigrant studies and services; carried out original ethnographic research while working with the community to produce major events such as a New Year parade; and interviewed local Cambodian artisans and assisted them in exhibiting their work.

CamCHAP offers research skills and expertise as well as providing research and training space for long-term community engagement. The center expands the historical society's coverage of Long Beach history and brings the community foundation into the Cambodian community. All partners agree that this is a highly effective way of accomplishing their missions and goals.

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Key words: interns, Southern California, Long Beach, Asian Pacific Islander, history, publications, art

Developing the Capacity for Community-Driven Research to Eliminate Health Disparities**Blue Ribbon Award Semi-Finalist**

Local health and human service organizations are increasingly challenged to plan, implement and monitor progress with federal and state legislative mandates for culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS). The ultimate goal of CLAS is to eliminate disparities due to differences in culture and language.

Leaders of a major network of federally qualified health centers and San Diego State University faculty partners have nurtured a community-driven research collaboration in Merced, California, to address health and health-care disparities in one of the nation's largest agricultural regions. The collaboration began with assessing organizational performance for CLAS. Now it is creating both small research projects improving language access and chronic care, and longer-term, systemwide experimental studies.

The community organization and faculty jointly developed new competencies and resources throughout the project, producing training both for community members and for research staff that included students at two CSU campuses who eventually returned to the community organization as staff.

Collaborative research projects over seven years have improved the quality of CLAS in the area. Additionally, the partners identified practical recommendations for others seeking to launch similar projects in underserved communities and among culturally diverse populations.

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Key words: language access, health disparities, long-term collaborative, Central Valley

**Fifth Dimension Magical Web
Blue Ribbon Award Semi-Finalist**

California State University, Sacramento child development faculty linked local elementary schools with the university to foster academic competency in children from diverse backgrounds; to encourage students from under-represented populations eventually to consider attending the CSU; and to support the development of aspiring teachers. Undergraduate mentors worked with schoolchildren on short-term game-like activities and longer-term projects involving sustained engagement in complex and difficult literacy tasks.

The elementary school partners provide space, computers, and opportunities for undergraduates to work with children. The university provides coursework grounded in sociocultural theories of development intended to help undergraduates work with children in productive ways.

The community partners and the faculty researcher collaborate to ensure that the research improves understanding of the teaching-learning experience. The project includes ethnographic and discourse analytic studies of cognitive development, motivational processes, and collaborative learning. Findings from these studies are shared with all participants.

The project benefits local community participants in the mentoring that many elementary-school children receive. These experiences promote the development of complex thinking, problem-solving ability, and literacy skills and strategies. Additionally, local schools benefit from recognizing that informal learning can contribute to children's intellectual development. The undergraduates learn the connection between theory and practice in teaching/learning events. Finally, the faculty and the university strengthen ties to the local community.

Two important lessons learned are that administrative support with collaborating partners is essential, and that the social organization of learning in informal settings promotes self-directed learning and motivation in complex ways.

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Key words: literacy, Sacramento, schools, teacher education, child development, mentoring, Northern California

**The Oak Park Story Documentary Film
Blue Ribbon Award Semi-Finalist**

San Francisco State University Asian American studies faculty and students collaborated with two community groups, the Oak Park Tenants Association and New

Hope Community Church, to produce a documentary film about the low-income tenants at the Oak Park Apartments in Oakland, California. *The Oak Park Story* tells the story of Latino and Cambodian immigrants and refugees who formed a unique cross-cultural alliance and in 2000 won a settlement against their landlord.

Both of the community partners were key organizations in the struggle for safe and affordable housing at Oak Park. One faculty member, who was a resident and a main organizer in the lawsuit against the landlord, facilitated meetings and interviews with the tenants and acted as a liaison to the community.

Community members contributed as translators, production assistants, and consultants, their feedback and insights helping to shape the project. Several students served as production assistants, transcribers, and research assistants working on publicity, outreach, a website, and a curriculum guide.

SFSU and community members have benefited through viewing the completed documentary, learning about this significant example of community organizing, and understanding the ways in which creative work can support and implement movements for social change. Many students and community members found working together on a project relevant to their own lives to be especially meaningful.

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Key words: documentary, immigrants, housing, refugees, Latino, Asian/Asian American, San Francisco, Northern California

**San Diego Asian Pacific Islander Community Health Network
Blue Ribbon Award Semi-Finalist**

The Asian Pacific Islander Community Health Network (API) is a San Diego county-wide nexus for improved research, accessible information, and health resources. The primary partners are Operation Samahan, a community health center that has emerged within the Filipino community over the last 30 years, and the Institute for Public Health in San Diego State University (SDSU), a graduate research center promoting quality evaluation, training, technology, and effective project partnerships to bridge academic and community knowledge.

Based on a desire to see API groups represented in research and to further engage the community, Operation Samahan brought in two non-profit organizations (Access, Inc., and Pacific American Education and Scholastic Foundation) as new partners.

Data collection, analysis, and dissemination are a collaborative process, while SDSU provides training and skill transfer to the other partners. The primary community benefit was creating a clearinghouse of resources and research related to San Diego County API health. The project also encourages partnerships among different

providers and agencies.

The network trains API student interns in community-based participatory research through the project, and faculty benefit from opportunities to meet and exchange with fellow local researchers, making a wider audience aware of information available. The project has also built and strengthened relationships between SDSU and its community partners.

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Key words: Asian Pacific Islanders, Filipino, legal services, domestic violence, immigration, San Diego, Southern California, interns, clearinghouse

**Self-Care Practices, Health Beliefs, and Attitudes of Older Diabetic Chinese Americans
Blue Ribbon Award Semi-Finalist**

California State University, Los Angeles nursing faculty conducted a community-based participatory research project with two Chinese adult day care centers in Southern California as partners. Many health problems are ethnically related and are particularly common in vulnerable populations. Therefore, the Asian community was of particular interest because Type II diabetes is becoming more prevalent in Chinese Americans despite the absence of obesity.

Three members from each center served on a Community Advisory Board (CAB) were involved in every aspect of the study, the purpose of which was to explore self-care practices, lifestyles, attitudes, and health beliefs of older Chinese Americans with type II diabetes and ultimately to improve diabetic self-care management for this group. CAB members assisted with recruitment and development of interview questions. Thirteen in-depth individual and two focus group interviews were obtained, data was recorded, transcribed, translated, and coded for themes. Focus groups discussed, clarified, and validated the data.

After the project's completion, the community participated in an open forum during which residents correctly answered questions demonstrating increased knowledge and self-care management potential. Positive cultural attributes of resilience, optimism, and self-reliance were used to promote behavioral changes.

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Key words: health, Asian/Asian American community, community advisory board, Los Angeles, Southern California

Affordable Housing and Quality-of-Life Outcomes: An Ongoing Campus and Community Collaboration

For three years, sociology faculty and students at California State University, Channel Islands have partnered with Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), based in Ventura, California and serving Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. CEDC develops and builds housing, for rent and for sale affordable for low- and very-low-income families. One CEDC division counsels would-be home owners, and another provides community outreach on neighborhood safety, education, and other issues.

A sociology class, Narratives of the Working Classes, coincided with the opening of the 52-unit Villa Cesar Chavez townhome rental community (VCC), and has continued with senior capstone students. Students interviewed some residents who had just that month moved in. Those interviews became part of a virtual museum, but were limited by time and linguistic constraints.

Three years later, the partners conducted follow-up interviews with residents, with CEDC helping the faculty to draft the second survey instrument. All interviews were conducted in Spanish and then translated to English. In a testimonial to the impact of decent housing, residents described their lives before VCC, of landlords who didn't repair mold, water or fire damage; of doubling and tripling up in houses and apartments; of poor health suffered by their children. Thanks to community meetings at VCC, residents are also more aware of their rights as workers. To address larger political issues, the residents rely on being active in local political organizations or can rely on the resident manager to help.

The transcribed interviews are still being analyzed, more than 300 pages where residents describe the disappearance of housing struggles from their lives. CEDC plans another collaborative, longitudinal study of a housing development, and will work with CSUCI to measure the economic impact of non-market-priced housing in a community.

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Key words: sociology, Southern California, low income, working class, organizing, community meetings

Chico Farmers' Market Study: Collaboration Across Disciplines and Communities

California State University, Chico faculty collaborated with city government, residents, and businesses to study questions raised about safety and parking for the

city's Saturday Certified Farmers' Market that had come to be a planning issue for the city. The research project sought to provide objective data to facilitate decision-making by the City of Chico, its citizens, and the business community about the location of the Farmers Market.

The study also aimed to actively engage students in their coursework and integrate theory and practice through a service-learning project. A sustainable planning class focused on safety, bicycle and vehicle parking issues and attitudes as well as the vendor/farmers' needs. Other classes conducted an extensive survey of market attendees' shopping behaviors, including purchases made before and after the farmers' market in nearby downtown businesses. They also surveyed attendance, safety, the distance shoppers traveled to the market, and their parking behaviors.

CSU Chico researchers' close collaboration with the market manager and city staff assured simple, practical recommendations as one outcome of the project. Students benefited from their participation in the service-learning project and the resulting public presentation, while community members, businesses, and city officials benefited from sensible decisions based on research, resolving a controversial issue. Faculty members learned more about academic collaboration between departments as well as the importance of including community partners in the research design and implementation.

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Key words: geography, recreation, farmer's market, city government, Northern California

Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners as Complimentary Health Educators for Colorectal Cancer Prevention Among Chinese Americans in San Francisco

San Francisco State University faculty collaborated in community-based participatory research with University of California San Francisco, NICOS (the Chinese health coalition), and the Chinatown Public Health Center to increase use of colorectal cancer (CRC) screening among Chinese American adults in San Francisco. The partners identified research questions, and interventions were carried out by the community researchers.

The partners also utilized focus groups of practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine to explore whether and how they, as "complementary health educators," promoted CRC among their clients. Recognizing the importance of these practitioners in the target community's health care system, the researchers explored their potential as a novel addition to the lay health worker intervention strategy, given their unique role and accessibility. Four focus groups were conducted with twelve

practitioners and their clients separately, to explore how these practitioners might promote CRC screening.

The groups revealed that Chinese medicine, especially herbal medicine, is considered the primary health care source among older and newly immigrated Chinese Americans. Providers and their clients share the knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine, and the Chinese idea of prevention is very different from disease prevention in Western medicine.

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Key words: San Francisco, Bay Area, Northern California, health, Asian Pacific Islander, Chinese, traditional medicine

Community-Based Participatory Research with Latino Day Laborer Parents for Child Health

California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) faculty conducted a research study with Latino day laborer participants in an urban community in northern California, in response to the workers' concerns about their children's health. These children may have increased health risk due to the uncertainty of the work of their parents. This community-based participatory action research explored the parents' perceptions regarding barriers and assets to health, and identified changes they could make to improve the health of their children.

Community members provided entry into the community and identified sites for recruitment of parent participants. CSUEB students facilitated focus groups, and also translated and transcribed validation of findings. This community-based participatory research project offered an opportunity for community members to work together to identify the issues and strategies for improving the health of their children; gave students experience with research and community health issues; and engaged the university with the community. The research team learned the importance of trust and good interpersonal relations in community-based research. Implementation of strategies is continuing.

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Key words: day labor, health, children, undergraduate research, nursing, Northern California, Bay Area

Community-Based Transportation Engineering Research Projects at Sacramento State

California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) engineering faculty have collaborated with community partners on real-world transportation issues. A series of graduate and undergraduate student projects have emerged.

The projects begin with “client meetings” where faculty, students and the community partner develop the research question, design the study, and decide how to engage community members. In addition, the group determines what data need to be collected, and how the research will be analyzed, interpreted, and disseminated.

In successful projects completed for various community partners, students have studied the impact of electric vehicles on a neighborhood; surveyed alternative-transportation; performed a crash analysis of intersections before and after signal timing improvements, and produced a parking generation study.

In completed projects for CSUS, students have produced a parking utilization study; a traffic-simulation and intersection study with proposed street redesign; and an annual transportation survey.

In some projects, the university itself benefits directly. Outside “clients” have found the results comparable to professional transportation engineers’ work. Finally, these community partnerships have created ongoing opportunities for student research projects.

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Community Inquiry: Valuing the Turlock Public Library

Faculty from the Center for Public Policy Studies at CSU Stanislaus conducted a collaborative research project with the Friends of the Turlock Public Library (FTPL) to generate information useful to policy makers about the direction they should be taking with the public library.

Members of the FTPL were invited to participate in a faculty-led research group that developed methods for gathering information on circulation data, facilities use, and patron attendance to be collected by library staff. Next the group developed a survey to address research questions not covered by the existing data or literature, deciding to get a cross-section of the community by gathering information outside of Turlock grocery stores.

The partners used the collected and analyzed data to identify actions the library could take to meet Turlock residents’ needs, and presented the report to the FTPL Board. In addition, the report will be used as the group continues to meet with city and county staff and elected officials. The project demonstrated how CSUS can benefit the community beyond the more common “economic development” roles that

many focus on.

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Key words: library, Stanislaus, Central Valley, public policy studies

Connecting Experiences Across Communities

As part of a plan to create a Tradeswomen Archives, labor studies faculty from California State University, Dominguez Hills collaborated with experienced tradeswomen and Mentoring Youth Through Empowerment (MYTE) a youth group that meets at the Center in Long Beach, a lesbian and gay organization. As part of this project, the faculty and the group's coordinator developed a plan that would be of interest to the youth and help build the archives. Eight tradeswomen would share their stories and photos in a particularly animated way by addressing the MYTE members, who would find the challenges tradeswomen face useful for their own journeys.

Together, the group's coordinator, MYTE mentors, an oral historian, and the CSUDH faculty research project director designed questions to be used during the interviews. MYTE members conducted the interviews using the interview schedule as a base, and operated the video cameras. After each of the monthly interviews, participants read selected quotations from the transcripts, and fashioned the tradeswomen's photos together to create a message in collage. A graphic designer helped to transform the quotations and images into a unique poster for each tradeswoman.

The resulting posters will be exhibited in several venues, and the project will also be the basis of a paper for a Visual Sociology conference. Three groups of people, tradeswomen, academics, and youth-club members, collaborated to create a unique set of messages. A key lesson learned was the importance of intergroup information sharing during all phases of the project.

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Key words: women, youth, GLBT, visual documentation, Southern California, Long Beach

Design and Innovation, Tools for Community Outreach: Creatively Solving

Problems and Developing Partnerships

San Francisco State University's Design and Industry (DAI) and Apparel Design and Merchandising (ADM) faculty and students partnered with community groups in two notable projects, working as co-creators of activities, programs and products. Brainstorming meetings were held throughout the design process, and reflective analysis included all partners.

Industrial Design Outreach (iDo) links DAI faculty and students, design professionals, industry experts, and funders with San Francisco high school students, administrators and teachers in the teaching of creativity. iDo's research examines classifications, traits, processes, physical and social conditions, skills and techniques employed to enhance creative thinking. Research methods include classroom experimentation, surveys, and interviews. iDo provides high-school students with experiences that foster curiosity, promote creativity, and build self-confidence, a framework that can be applied to almost any creative discipline.

Discarded to Design is a fund raiser created by St. Vincent de Paul Society. Collaborating with local industry, student designers transform donated clothing into new garments to be auctioned to raise funds for the poor and homeless in San Francisco. ADM students also collaborate with the deYoung Museum in an evening event showcasing the upcycled clothing, designers and members of the community served by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Through this participation, students discover the value of charity and sustainability by contributing to community and individual renewal.

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Engaging Latino Day Laborers in Community-Based Health Interventions

California's Latino day laborers rarely find an outlet to express their health care needs and concerns to other laborers, to service providers, or to the general public. As a result, their potential as change agents has been largely neglected in health research and interventions. Through a university-community partnership, a project was formed with the overarching goal to increase the capacity of day laborers to become participants in planning health education and outreach efforts.

Faculty from San Francisco State University (SFSU) met with their community partners, the San Mateo Adult School and the Graton Day Labor Center in Sonoma County, to ask for assistance in developing the questions to be asked during focus groups and in a human subject research proposal. Further, the community partners helped to recruit day laborers to participate in the focus groups and to offer their input for those who developed subsequent health education interventions.

Staff and day laborers used focus-group data to create unique health education interventions for each of the sites in order to meet the needs of the day laborers.

Graduate students have worked on data analysis and on health education interventions. Thus, the partnership has brought SFSU faculty and students together with community members to provide a means for day laborers to identify their health education needs, bringing about more responsive health care interventions.

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Key words: day labor, graduate students, San Mateo County, Sonoma County, health

The Escondido ESL Family Science Night

California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM) faculty conducted a community-based research project in elementary science education by teaching immigrant parents at an elementary school how to conduct simple science experiments at home using household items.

Working with parents, school administrators and local merchants, the faculty researchers conducted two-hour parent workshops. In addition, CSUSM credential students in the multiple subject program learned to create and conduct the family workshops working in concert with parents and the local school administration. The workshops were given in Spanish, the primary language of the parents. CSUSM students also obtained donations from local merchants and other businesses to defray expenses for the project.

As part of their five years of research, the faculty members have written an article to document the project development, its findings, and suggestions for others planning or considering community-based research projects in elementary science education.

There may be intangible benefits yet to come as immigrant parents become more aware of science education and encourage their children to study the subject.

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Girls' Voices

Girls' Voices is a collaborative research project involving San Diego State University in a multi-tiered community- and university-based mentorship and a Young Women's Studies Club (YWSC) at Hoover High School in San Diego, California. Since its

inception 15 years ago, the club has met weekly to address the life circumstances and coming-of-age issues faced by its members. From 35 to 45 students (95% female) attend. They are a diverse population representing lower-socioeconomic status young women of color, including immigrants from Mexico, Central America, and Asia (for whom English is not the first language), as well as African American and other American-born students.

The project is based on a decade of conversations, dialogues, student essays, poems, 'zines, and visual projects. At semester's end, in one-on-one oral histories, the girls reflect on their family roles; ethnic and racial identities; support networks, educational goals, and non-school activities; and the impact of the YWSC on their self-perceptions and choices. Follow-up conversations empower the girls to add to ideas and concerns they voiced previously, helping the mentors interpret their stories.

The activities aim to improve the girls' self-esteem; to encourage them to complete high school and apply for college; to embrace healthy living behaviors; and to pursue creative activities that foster knowledge of women's history, self-expression, appreciation of positive role models, honoring of cultural traditions, and collective efforts. This study adds considerably to the extant literature on immigrant daughters' experiences, girls of color coming of age, and the impact of multi-tiered mentoring within a feminist, race-conscious, and social justice framework.

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Keywords: high school students, mentoring, immigrants, San Diego, Southern California, African American, Chicano/Latino/Mexican, Central American, Asian, oral history, student-produced projects, racial identity, girls, women

Healthy Families and Healthy Communities: A Town Hall Project

The purpose of San José State University's (SJSU) Town Hall Meeting Project was to assess the perceptions of low-income residents of a predominantly immigrant neighborhood regarding community health needs, assets and priorities. Participants included members of three neighborhood associations and a parent association, as well as clients of a nutrition program and a senior service center.

The neighborhood organizations asked a planning team, made up of staff and student members of the Center for Community Learning & Leadership and the community director of the service-learning collaborative CommUniverCity to engage residents in group discussion and to distribute surveys regarding their physical and mental health concerns.

A total of 178 people participated in town hall meetings, 111 of them completing

open-ended questionnaires. The researchers discussed the responses to identify recurring primary themes, then quantified respondents' references to each of the themes and located representative quotes.

The findings of the project have led to student-faculty-community partnerships around health-related research, grant development, and program planning. For example, the fact that obesity and associated health issues emerged as primary concerns in the community (cited by 69%) guided the efforts of SJSU faculty and students working with residents to plan and implement free community health fairs.

Similarly, 45 of 111 participants surveyed (41%) having noted that they knew someone who had experienced domestic violence provided a basis for supporting and expanding related programs in community centers that work with SJSU student volunteers.

As each community group receives the questionnaire reports, feedback is being gathered. Thus, the original study prompted further cooperation among the participants on meeting a number of community needs.

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Key words: immigrants, health, neighborhood association, town hall, obesity, domestic violence, community building, surveys, qualitative methods, quantitative methods

Hunger in Ventura County 2009

The serious current economic recession and its impact on food security in Ventura County prompted California State University, Channel Islands faculty and a food bank to launch a collaborative project. Its purpose, to assess the pattern of food insecurity and to evaluate food assistance programs, was fulfilled by a partnership between CSUCI's sociology faculty and FOOD Share, a food bank that houses and distributes food to the hungry of Ventura County.

The partners planned the research project, designed the survey questions, trained interviewers, conducted interviews, and collected surveys. After the faculty analyzed and interpreted the results, the partners prepared to disseminate the findings. CSUCI sociology students as well as volunteers from the community and from the Ventura County Human Services Agency interviewed approximately 500 clients who were recipients of food aid, with 24 community agencies participating.

The findings were alarming. Of those interviewed, more than 60% experienced food insecurity during 2009, a majority was not receiving food stamps, and half were experiencing hunger. Those who were both food insecure and not receiving government assistance were coping by relying on nongovernmental assistance

programs.

The findings were shared with the board and staff of FOOD Share and other community agencies to inform them of the current status of hunger in Ventura County and more importantly to address this urgent need. Data will be further utilized for agencies that apply for funds to support food purchases and food assistance programs.

Sociology students participating in this project learned and applied interviewing skills, and many were deeply affected by their personal experience. In realizing that hunger was not only common and widespread, but close to home, they also learned the urgency of collecting and sharing information to meet pressing local needs. A final report will be presented to the CSUCI community to raise awareness on campus as well.

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Key words: food security, Ventura County, Southern California, sociology

Impact of Budget Cuts on In-Home Supportive Services Consumers in San Francisco

San Francisco State University (SFSU) faculty researchers from the Department of Economics partnered with the In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority (IHSS) on a project to understand the impact of state budget cuts on the lives of a vulnerable group of low-income senior and disabled receiving IHSS services in San Francisco.

Impending budget cuts prompted IHSS to identify questions and to survey to its consumers asking them to describe how reduction of services would impact their lives. IHSS provided the researchers with its database for demographic information on the respondents.

More than 4500 consumers, representing a third of the IHSS consumer base, responded with detailed accounts of the devastating effects that any reduction in services or monthly grant support would have on their own lives as well as on their providers' lives.

SFSU faculty and students transcribed and analyzed these responses using qualitative and quantitative research methods. A research brief and a report were presented to the community partner to publicize the plight of its consumers.

The study found that any reductions to In-Home Support Services and grants would have devastating effects. Faculty and student participation in this community-based research demonstrates university engagement to provide advocacy and to carry out pertinent and time-sensitive research.

In addition to learning qualitative research methods, the students came to understand the assets, interests and needs within communities. Faculty benefited from engaging in opportunities for professional growth. The community partner was provided with a presentation of critical information to make a case for lower cuts in Sacramento.

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Key words: economics, health, San Francisco

Increase the Peace Project: Salinas Youth, Families, and Schools Building Peace Together

Supported by the SURDNA Foundation (Andrus family philanthropic organization), the Increase the Peace Project: Salinas Youth, Families, and Schools Building Peace Together is a collaboration of California State University, Monterey Bay; El Sausal Middle School in Salinas; and a community after-school program.

This culturally relevant arts and literature curriculum was designed to increase student persistence and graduation, thereby decreasing gang violence in East Salinas. During a period of escalating violence in the community and declining arts funding, this project offered middle school students positive avenues of expression and included research to assess its impact.

A CSUMB faculty member with expertise in young adult literature taught language arts weekly at El Sausal and mentored the middle school teachers. At the community after-school program in Camphora and Jimenez labor camps, another faculty member brought together CSUMB service learners (SLs) and children through video and arts projects.

SLs from cultural and class backgrounds similar to the younger students'—some having once attended El Sausal themselves—successfully applied their experience in creative piñata activities and filmmaking projects with the children. They served as role models and were privileged to see the youngsters' growth as it occurred, creating a close bond between the groups. It was as though the older students had insights into where they had come from, and the younger ones could see their own possible future.

In keeping with the project goal to document its impact on the middle school and CSUMB participants, the community partners designed and implemented the curriculum, and teachers undertook the collection and first interpretation of student writing and art work.

Through interviews with students and teachers, analysis of student artwork, and of

teachers' and administrators' reflections and interviews, it was clear that a cultural shift had begun in the school. One measure is the larger number of El Sausal students now curious about college. The investment of faculty and SL time, a richly creative and relevant curriculum, and a supportive infrastructure have contributed to the project's success.

The partners will share the results with decision makers in the city of Salinas and its residents. Another significant measure of progress is El Sausal students' eagerness to show the community who they are and what they have learned. This project won CSUMB's 2010 "Marian Penn Partnership" Award Winner

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Keywords: middle school, after school program, teacher education, violence prevention, policy, arts, literature, access to higher education, culturally relevant curriculum

The Insieme Experience: Transitioning Women from Victim to Victor

San Francisco State University recreation, parks and tourism faculty are partnering with Insieme Ranch, LLC and the Lake County Family Resource Center (LCFRC) to provide a much-needed intervention program for domestic abuse survivors during the critical post-crisis time for survivors of domestic violence and their children between recovery and wellness, which will take place over eight days in a wilderness setting.

LCFRC, which has provided statistical data that justify the need for evidence-based intervention programs (i.e., an outdoor experiential curriculum), will provide the clientele for the pilot study.

Currently, the research partners are employing a community-based participatory research model to develop instruments for data collection. Undergraduate students spent a full semester working on intervention and leisure oriented programs that will be incorporated into The Insieme Experience: Transitioning Women from Victim to Victor curriculum. Graduate students will work with community partners to develop. It is clearly understood, from continual communication and feedback on meeting agency expectations and client needs, that each step in the research process reflects the expertise and mutual collaboration of the partners.

The anticipated benefits of the project are greater resilience for survivors of domestic violence and their children, as well as new connections created with other survivors. SFSU students will be exposed to experiential learning techniques through research, program development, implementation, and evaluation. Faculty will build stronger collaborations, incorporate experiential learning techniques in the classroom, and

ultimately provide much-needed evidence-based intervention programs for domestic violence shelters

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Key words: experiential education, outdoor education, women, domestic abuse, children, undergraduate research, graduate research

Maasai Migrants and Applied Visual Anthropology

In an ongoing project in applied visual anthropology project with the Maasai Migrants Tanzania Field School, San Francisco State University faculty and students collaborated with Maasai-led non-governmental organizations, independent Maasai scholars, and traditional pastoralists.

The partnership has produced short documentary films for screening in Maasai homesteads and city enclaves. The films document the new Maasai poverty, their out-migration, and the influx of HIV. After screening the video vignettes, a facilitator guides audience discussions of great value to the Maasai dealing with these changes, since their culture's long enjoyment of wealth and isolation shielded them from city dangers and the global epidemic.

In addition to creating a long-term relationship between professional Maasai educators, pastoralists and SFSU, the project demonstrates how anthropology graduate students can provide substantial benefits across the globe while gaining valuable independent field experience.

The project's key contribution lies in its use of video vignettes in both successful and unsuccessful post-screening facilitated discussions, and in the practical and ethical complexities of recording on-camera collaborators' private stories for public benefit.

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Key words: international, documentary, cultural preservation, Africa, San Francisco

Mapping the Way to Language Learning: The Impact of Metalinguistic Awareness and Self-Assessment

California State University, East Bay teacher education faculty, an East Oakland middle school, and Mills College faculty collaborated to study how a group of Spanish-speaking 6th, 7th and 8th graders responded to the process of reflection and self-assessment in language learning.

The community and university partners shared ideas about framing the research questions and developing the survey and self-assessment tools. While the teachers helped to get the students excited about the research and gave their feedback at each step, the researchers analyzed the data and helped to clarify the findings. Work on disseminating the study is in progress.

This project will benefit educators working with English learners, as well as university students pursuing their own action research projects. The study process was collaborative and inclusive to foster self-empowerment, independence, and a sense of being valued members of the school community.

A lesson learned is that middle school English learners can and will give their opinions about their instruction and learning, and appreciate the opportunity to become leaders in their own destinies.

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Key words: Oakland, Bay Area, education, English language learners, middle school, youth leadership, teacher education, Northern California

Needs Assessment of Refugees from Burma

San Francisco State University (SFSU) Asian American Studies faculty and undergraduate students collaborated with the Burmese Refugee Family Network (BRFN), a community-based nonprofit organization, for a needs assessment of new refugees from Burma to the San Francisco Bay Area. The students assisted in survey administration and analysis, while BRFN coordinated the project, facilitated planning sessions for two health fairs, suggested survey questions, and recruited translators. For example, BRFN perceived that many refugees planned to move out of the SF Bay Area because of the high cost of living, and a question about relocation confirmed that a large percentage of respondents had thought of moving but did not know where to go. To obtain 77 completed surveys, 50 SFSU students and 20 Burmese volunteers worked together.

The results indicated that along with English acquisition and job training, the top need of this emerging community was health, with nearly half of respondents reporting serious mental health issues. After the results were shared with other Bay Area community organizations, BRFN, Asian Health Services, Lao Family Community

Development, and Asian Community Mental Health Services each used the survey data to develop funding proposals to the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

One concrete outcome of this study is that Asian Health Services, a local non-profit organization, plans to staff a new clinic to address the health needs identified by the research project.

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Key words: San Francisco, Northern California, Asian Pacific Islander, refugees, health, housing, English language learners, job training, mental health, policy

Partnering to Reduce Risk of Hepatitis C Virus in College Students

As part of an existing partnership, California State University, Sacramento (CSUC) and the University of California, Davis (UCD) collaborated on a 2008 research project aimed at cancer education, outreach and research, with the purpose of developing a bi-campus awareness campaign to reduce hepatitis C virus (HCV) risk in college students.

Nationally, HCV accounts for approximately one-third of liver cancer cases and is the most common chronic blood-borne viral infection. Although estimates indicate that by 2021 more people will die annually from HCV than AIDS, prevention efforts to reduce HCV incidence are far less than for HIV/AIDS. Given the lack of awareness about HCV, U.S. undergraduates are in danger of acquiring it.

As a first step in the CSUS/UCD project, a research team studied 224 college students to determine their risk-taking behaviors, awareness of HCV, and successful educational approaches. The joint effort included study design, development of research instruments (survey), analysis of final results, and dissemination of results via intercampus meetings.

Community partners, including the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, The Alliance of Professional Tattooers and the Association of Professional Piercers, served as advisers on the /CSUS/UCD Cancer Partnership Board. The partners and several student groups provided ongoing input and feedback on the research design and findings: UCD young cancer survivor board, college interns, Colleges vs. Cancer Clubs and Public Health Clubs at both campuses.

The partners also developed a social marketing campaign to increase awareness of HCV risks. This campaign included print and visual materials, a website (www.besmartwithbodyart.com), public service announcements, a media launch, and a statewide Hep C meeting. Faculty worked with the students to assure that the materials were appropriate for their student peers. Multiple focus groups and meetings were held over a period of a year on the exact details, colors and presentation of campaign materials.

Activities benefit the students by increased HCV risk awareness and the experience they gained through their involvement in the project. Project partners intend to take

the CSUS/UCD awareness campaign statewide. Lessons learned include the difficulty in collaborations between a research based institution and a service oriented one; balancing the funding of project efforts; and semester versus quarter timeline issues.

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Key words: Northern California, undergraduate students, Sacramento, health, social media, interns

Preparing New Job-Seekers for the First Interview

A California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) business faculty member was invited to join an existing partnership between volunteers from the local Professionals in Human Resources Association (PIHRA) and the Southern California Regional Occupational Center (So Cal ROC).

The core activity is for CSUDH service-learning students planning careers in human resources (HR) to role-play mock job interviews of high school students to prepare them for the real-world experience. Although the CSUDH students had little or no interviewing experience themselves, their service-learning (SL) class assignments included suggesting questions to ask and planning how to adjust their approach for highly anxious interviewees. In addition, they were given a script to follow when they interviewed several So Cal ROC students.

Throughout the project, professionals from PIHRA and So Cal ROC helped to design questions for interviews and for feedback questionnaires. Both the CSUDH interviewers and their "job-seekers" received help and feedback, and one group of high school-aged students wrote reflection papers.

The co-researchers observed apparent increases in the confidence and comfort levels of both student groups practicing interviews as each group learned the skills they would need in their respective roles.

This community SL project suggests future research questions to test anecdotal observations. Short surveys of the high school students and reflections from the HR professionals and college students revealed how very intimidating the interview process is to the students, but also how rewarding this project is to HR students as an authentic real-world experience. These results suggest institutionalizing this project at CSUDH and expanding it to similar community agencies.

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Key words: Human Resources, high school, Southern California, undergraduates, career preparation

Research to Address Community Problems: Planning a Homeless Shelter

The California State University, Stanislaus' Center for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) and the Turlock, California community collaborated in a participatory action-research project, Community Inquiry: Homeless Shelter in Turlock. The research was to be used to plan a homeless shelter and the address the community response to homelessness.

Utilizing its community inquiry model of participatory action research, CPPS established four research groups: business owners/residents, homeless persons, faith-based organizations/service providers, and city government staff. CPPS and these groups developed research questions, designed data collection methods, and used the information collected to recommend strategies to address homelessness.

Graduate students in the CSU Stanislaus Master of Social Work (MSW) program collaborated with these groups to examine and document the groups' processes, conduct literature reviews on specified topics, and help to conceptualize the research methodology. Students from several courses covering social work research and policy helped collect and organize data as course assignments.

A core group of community researchers continues to work with the city on implementing recommendations from the report. Students acquired concrete skills and experience relevant to their postgraduate employment goals, ten choosing some aspect of the project for their master's thesis and adding to social work literature on homelessness issues. The CSU Stanislaus MSW program benefited from piloting an effort that resulted in course assignments applied to real issues in the community.

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Key words: Central Valley, social work, public policy, homelessness, community research teams, graduate student researchers

Supporting After-School Program Teachers

The Department of Special Education at San Francisco State University conducted a pilot study in collaboration with the Mission Learning Center (MLC), which provides

after-school literacy programs for students who are reading below grade level (kindergarten-grade five). The MLC program was housed at a school where 71 % of students received free or reduced lunch (an index of family poverty), and 44% were English Learners (linguistic minority students not yet proficient in English) in an ethnically diverse student body.

Assisted by faculty researchers who facilitated workshops, MLC program teachers, aides, and directors identified challenging classroom behaviors that impeded student learning, and then developed program expectations and procedures for supporting positive behavior.

Based on classroom observations before and after the workshops, MLC staff demonstrated a marked improvement in use of positive behavior supports. Notably, such positive behavior corrections as redirecting a student to an appropriate activity or behavior increased from 31% to 63%. In contrast, such negative behavior corrections as telling a student to stop or saying “no” without clear redirection decreased from 56% to 30%. This result is very promising, because positive behavior corrections teach students new skills that affect longer-term change, while negative behavior corrections merely reduce a challenging behavior for that incidence.

This project confirmed that facilitated workshops are useful in the context of limited professional development because program staff take ownership of the process. As a result, the same process is being applied to other, more complex collaborative projects.

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Key words: literacy, after school programs, teacher education

Technology Access in Resource-Limited Environments

Whirlwind Wheelchair International (WWI) is a non-profit social enterprise dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities in the developing world. Whirlwind is a program of the Institute for Civic and Community Engagement, San Francisco State University.

Responding to an undeniable need for non-anecdotal information on which to base the development of new assistive technology (AT) programs as well as the need to encourage governments to fund them, WWI formed a research group. The members, chosen for their research experience, familiarity with AT, and practical experience in the developing world, represent leaders and organization in six countries where the project will be conducted.

The project aims to evaluate factors that affect awareness of, access to, and acquisition of high-quality, low-cost AT for people with disabilities in resource-limited environments within developing countries and U.S. tribal lands. In addition, the project means to identify factors influencing AT provision; successful AT models as collectively perceived by manufacturers, distributors, and service providers, as well

as users and their families or caregivers; and create such programs.

Beginning in October 2009, the first two years of research will include conducting surveys of stakeholders and designing an Assistive Technology Access System Guide (ATAS) to help governments and international development agencies implement cost-effective interventions.

From years three to five, researchers will collaborate with local partners, to design and implement three demonstration projects to test out the ATAS guide. Subsequent project implementation will be led by the local partners.

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Key words: disability, access, international, tribal nations, assistive technology

Thinking Outside the Box: The Rancho Project

This project was designed to align the needs of the Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum for historical preservation and research with California State University, Dominguez Hills campus research and student experiential learning.

The partners were the museum and the Center for Service Learning, Internship and Civic Engagement. The museum needed assistance researching collections, lands and plants and historical preservation of its collections. Faculty from the Departments of History, Anthropology, and Biology participated in field trips to assist in developing research questions with the museum, and the partners were involved in designing the research process and in interpreting much of the data and determining how it would be disseminated.

Interns researched archival preservation methods to assist with historical preservation, cataloguing, and collection display. The Anthropology Department opened a field school. Students opened three pits on the initial survey, screened soil for artifacts and lithic material, making a photographic journal and site maps while sorting and cataloguing findings. The department analyzed and interpreted the results and created a report that the museum could use

History students wrote a research paper on rancho land use. Biology faculty and students identified plants and made plans to restore native habitat. Findings will be published in catalogs, and documentation sheets of the collection, detailed archeology reports about rancho lands, local school curriculum, and research papers will be considered to create a publication about the museum and its history.

The project has added to the body of knowledge, and participants learned the value of university seeking out the rich resources of other institutions for mutual benefit. The strong community relationship has produced further collaboration, including the 50th Anniversary of CSUDH and the Centennial of the 1910 International Aviation Meet, which took place on land between the two institutions. Many more projects will follow.

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Key words: museum, Southern California, history, anthropology, biology, land use, native habitat restoration, interns

Understanding the Impacts of Service Learning in Preservice Teacher Preparation

The purpose of this project was to examine service learning (SL) in preservice teacher (PST) preparation. California State University, Sacramento and San José State University child development faculty and their community partners have common SL goals for PSTs: career development, commitment to working with diverse learners, and civic engagement.

Faculty worked with staff, students and community/school to collect, analyze and interpret data and to disseminate findings. They also met with the community partners to discuss specific implications for improving PST preparation programs. As a result, many teachers and community supervisors revised SL responsibilities and assignments.

The most dramatic impacts were found for community-based placements, which enhanced PSTs' development in skills not well supported in school placements. The project results have led to refinement of SL content, goals and placements. The collaboration, while promoting faculty development in SL pedagogy and research, also offers direction for SL for CSU campuses and their partners to promote PST preparation that integrates placements aligned with common goals.

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Key words: teacher education, schools, civic engagement, Sacramento, Northern California

Welfare-to-Wellness-to-Work Program

California State University, Stanislaus nursing faculty partnered with CalWORKS, the county welfare agency, on a pilot welfare-to-wellness-to-work program that provides health-related classes and activities to welfare recipients. The project compared the

outcomes of one-week with three-week programs, and evaluated changes in participant self-esteem, self-care skills, depression, and personal and family wellness after two years. Because more than 5000 participants in the program between 2000 and 2012 would eventually be included, researchers planned a careful description of the sample.

The program staff and director participated in formulating pilot-interview questions, collecting consent forms, administering the questionnaires, and entering the data. The director of CalWORKS, whose case managers refer to the program, offered strategies to contact participants.

The pilot-study findings were disseminated at a CalWORKS conference in 2008. In addition, the Department of Nursing faculty who developed questions for the pilot will have access to data for research papers. Students assisted with the literature review and data input.

Ultimately, the university and the community benefited from the data maintained through the university's Office of Institutional Research. Knowledge about social support recipients' participation in a community-based welfare-to-wellness-to-work program can inform and assist health care and service providers, administrators, and policymakers. Faculty gain valuable experience in opening lines of communication between the university and the individuals with whom they work in the community. One key element learned in the process is that those involved in the research process are more likely to see the value of its results.

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