



California | Campus Compact

Bridge-Building Leadership Initiative

Overview

The California Campus Compact Bridge-Building Leadership Initiative is a year-long comprehensive professional development program designed to cultivate and retain both emerging and long-time leaders of color in the fields of service learning and community engagement at colleges and universities throughout California.

Launched in January 2008 with 10 leaders representing two-year and four-year public, private and faith-based colleges and universities, the Bridge-Building Leadership Initiative explores theories of leadership, multiculturalism and inclusion while providing participants with the opportunity to gain practical leadership skills through retreats, conferences and reflection and networking opportunities.

The ten participating leaders were selected based upon a nominating letter from their host campus, letters of support, a comprehensive application and a phone interview that demonstrated strong professional service-learning experience and a commitment to addressing issues of equity, inclusion and justice.

The Bridge-Building Leadership Initiative focuses on:

- Leadership theory and application
- Public service and effective practices for service learning
- Contextual diversity that exists within academic and multicultural communities

Leaders are supported and challenged to:

- Identify personal leadership strengths and skills for further development
- Understand how values impact behavior and attitudes
- Hone their observational and listening skills to discover how culture impacts leadership
- Explore the historical context of service learning and its strengths and gaps today
- Analyze models and techniques for leading people through multicultural lenses
- Test their ability to engage with a culture different from their own
- Design curriculum to ensure their personal learning objectives are met

"Being a part of the Bridge-Building Leadership Initiative has helped me focus on the reason I do this work and believe in it so wholeheartedly. It has given me the opportunity to learn the history of the field and gain access to leaders and others in the field whose voices need to be heard, but who I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet." -*Maria Alderete, Assistant Director, Center for Service and Action, Loyola Marymount University*

"The Bridge-Building Leadership Initiative has helped me get beyond feeling like I am just one of many. It has helped me grow and feel confident in identifying myself as a leader of color in the field – and to understand that the work I do is integrally connected to who I am, how I live my life and what makes me whole." -*Minh Dang, Service and Outreach Coordinator, Cal Corps Public Service Center, University of California, Berkeley*

Leaders will gain:

- Skills for developing and adapting personal style and behavior to a wider range of constituents for more effective leadership
- Frameworks and approaches for bridging multiple cultures
- Models and tools for implementing and promoting effective service learning to further social justice
- Increased self-knowledge
- Plans to apply the Initiative's key concepts to their own work and life in support of their personal goals

Leaders take part in:

- Three 2 1/2-day overnight retreats
- 2008 Continuums of Service Conference
- Data collection and analysis about individual leadership styles
- Individual coaching sessions
- Creation of personal development plans
- Periodic conference calls
- Online community of reading, writing, reflection, discussion and sharing of resources
- Dissemination of lessons learned with colleagues and community partners

For more information, please contact:

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**2008-2009 California Campus Compact
Bridge-Building Leadership Initiative
Participants**

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About California Campus Compact

Since its founding in 1988, California Campus Compact has worked to build the collective commitment and capacity of colleges, universities and communities throughout California to advance civic and community engagement for a healthy, just and democratic society. Through innovative programs and initiatives, grant funding, training and technical assistance, professional development and powerful research studies and publications, California Campus Compact each year invests in and champions more than 500,000 students, faculty members, administrators and community members involved in diverse and ground-breaking activities that support and expand civic and community engagement throughout California. For more information, please visit www.cacampuscompact.org.

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