

News

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Page 1 of 2

Megan Voorhees, Director of the Cal Corps Public Service Center and Assistant Dean of Students, University of California, Berkeley, Named California Campus Compact's 2012 Richard E. Cone Award Recipient

UC Berkeley's Director of the Cal Corps Public Service Center recognized for her impact on service-learning and community-campus partnerships throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and the University of California system.

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San Francisco, CA – California Campus Compact has selected Megan Voorhees, Director of the Cal Corps Public Service Center (Cal Corps) at the University of California, Berkeley, as the recipient of California Campus Compact's 2012 Richard E. Cone Award for Excellence & Leadership in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education.

California Campus Compact developed the Richard E. Cone Award in response to the recommendations of service-learning practitioners throughout California who expressed hope that creating such an award would inspire all higher education institutions to consider ways to deepen their efforts to institutionalize and sustain authentic community-campus partnerships.

"I have had the pleasure of knowing Megan Voorhees for many years. In addition to being a passionate and skillful community leader and an expert in her field, she has worked tirelessly to promote service learning and community engaged scholarship to administrators, faculty, students and community partners, with impressive results," said Elaine Ikeda, Ph.D., Executive Director of California Campus Compact. "We are pleased to recognize Megan and highlight her exemplary work in the field of service-learning and civic engagement by presenting her with the 2012 Richard E. Cone Award."

Ms. Voorhees joined Cal Corps as Director in 2000, after working for over a decade in the fields of service-learning and youth development. Her work experience includes five years with the San Francisco Conservation Corps as a Program Director and Education Trainer, running a program in Zimbabwe for U.S. college students on global economic issues, coordinating a statewide leadership program for high school youth in Oregon, and serving as the Community Service Director at Lewis & Clark College where she received her undergraduate degree in Sociology/Anthropology. She has a Masters in Ethics and Social Theory from the Graduate Theological Union. She has received a Chancellor's Outstanding Staff Award and an Excellence in Management Award from the Berkeley Staff Assembly for her work with the Center.

In her current position as the Director of the Cal Corps Public Service Center at the University of California, Berkeley, Ms. Voorhees led the expansion of the Public Service Center from a volunteer service program that engaged 450 students to a campus-wide center that engages over 6000 students through service-learning courses, field work, volunteer projects, and internships in partnership with over 150 community organizations. In particular, the Center is well respected for work around engaged scholarship, K-12 literacy initiatives, long-term

community partnerships, and commitment to student leadership development. She manages a \$2.8 million budget, including fundraising for \$800,000 annually. She has trained faculty through the American Cultures Engaged Scholarship program, a five-year initiative to develop 30 engaged scholarship courses that teach about the diverse cultures in the U.S. She is appointed by the Chancellor to the Berkeley Alliance Board of Directors (a community organization addressing the K-12 achievement gap), to the Chancellor's Community Partnership Fund, and she serves on a campus task force to restructure the student government auxiliary.

“Since arriving at the Cal Corps Public Service Center 10+ years ago Megan has been steadfast in her work to transform the Center from one of mere volunteerism to a comprehensive national best practice model of civic engagement, faculty and curriculum development, community based partnerships for innovative learning and most importantly holistic student learning and service,” said Jonathan Poullard, Dean of Students and Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, “She has done this by strategically raising the conversation of civic engagement and learning on our campus and with our community partners, and has encouraged many in our ranks to live and own our institutional value of public service.”

About the Richard E. Cone Award for Excellence & Leadership in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education

Richard E. Cone, Ph.D., has been a voice in the national dialogue on experiential education, civic engagement and service-learning since the 1970s, and has provided a guiding spirit and voice in the development and evolution of California Campus Compact since its beginnings more than 20 years ago. For 25 years, he directed the much-lauded Joint Educational Project (JEP) at the University of Southern California from which he retired in 2002. In 1999, California Campus Compact presented Dick Cone with the first Richard E. Cone Award for Excellence & Leadership in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education. Since then, the award has been bestowed annually upon an individual who has made significant contributions to the development of partnerships between institutions of higher education and communities – partnerships through which student learning and the quality of life in communities are simultaneously improved. For more information on the Richard E. Cone Award and a list of past honorees, please visit www.cacampuscompact.org/html/initiatives/coneAward.html.

About California Campus Compact

California Campus Compact is a coalition of leading colleges and universities that works 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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