

News

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For Immediate Release
<http://www.cacampuscompact.org>
Page 1 of 3

Dr. Seth Pollack, Director of the Service Learning Institute, California State University, Monterey Bay, Named California Campus Compact's 2013 Richard E. Cone Award Recipient

CSU Monterey Bay's Seth Pollack, Director of the Service Learning Institute recognized for his impact on service-learning and community-campus partnerships throughout the Monterey Bay and Salinas Valley Region and the California State University system.

January 7, 2013

Palo Alto, CA – California Campus Compact has selected Dr. Seth Pollack, Director of the Service Learning Institute at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB), as the recipient of California Campus Compact's 2013 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 distinct pleasure of knowing and working with Seth Pollack for years. In addition to being a passionate and skillful community leader and an expert in his field, he 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 grateful for Seth's leadership in furthering our work in California and we are pleased to recognize and highlight his exemplary work in the field of service learning and civic engagement by presenting him with the 2013 Richard E. Cone Award.”

Dr. Pollack holds a Ph.D. in International Development Education, an M.A. in Organizational Sociology from Stanford University, and a B.A. in International Affairs from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has had a distinguished career in service learning and civic engagement, with significant experience coordinating community-campus partnerships that have had an impact on the local, national and international levels. Dr. Pollack is recognized as a leader in the field of civic engagement in higher education, and as a scholar whose achievements are noteworthy from both an

academic and an applied perspective. Dr. Pollack has written numerous articles addressing higher education's commitment to diversity, community and social responsibility, while also building a nationally-acclaimed program and affecting sustained institutional change on campus, and throughout the CSU System.

In addition to his academic distinctions, Dr. Pollack has received a number of impressive awards and honors. Dr. Pollack was selected as a Fulbright Scholar in 2008, spending the year at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, conducting research and leading workshops on higher education's role in social change in the new South Africa. In 2005, Dr. Pollack was the national recipient of the Campus Compact Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service Learning.

During his fifteen year tenure as Director of Service Learning at CSUMB, Dr. Pollack has helped CSUMB become a recognized national leader in the field of service learning and civic engagement. CSUMB is the only two-time recipient of the White House President's Award for Community Service in Higher Education (2006 and 2011), awarded each year to the six top programs in the nation by the Corporation for National and Community Service. CSUMB is especially recognized for embedding service learning in the core curriculum as an academic requirement. As a result, each year, nearly 50% of CSUMB students take courses in service learning, developing their knowledge and commitment to social responsibility, while working in partnership with over 500 local schools, governmental agencies and non-profit organizations throughout the region. Under his leadership, the Minor in Service Learning Leadership was developed at CSUMB, as the first of such academic programs in the country. In the 2011-12 academic year, 2238 CSUMB students provided more than 68,000 hours of service to 280 organizations in their regions.

One prime example of Dr. Pollack's leadership in community-university partnerships is CSUMB's involvement in the Chinatown Renewal Project. Since the project's inception in 2006, over 1200 students and 20 faculty have participated in this community-based effort to revitalize the Chinatown neighborhood of Salinas. Working with the cultural communities of Chinatown and the homeless serving agencies working in the area, CSUMB has offered job training and computer literacy classes at the *Soledad Street Community Learning Center*; created a 30,000 sq ft. community unity garden; and collected over 100 oral histories of the Chinese, Japanese and Filipino families who previously resided in the neighborhood. The Chinatown Renewal Project has been recognized as a model of university-community partnership, and has received awards at the state, national and international levels. The Project received the *2011 Sustainability Best Practice Award* from the California Commission for Higher Education; was a 2010 finalist for the *C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award*, offered by the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities; and was a 2011 finalist, *MacJannett Prize for Global Citizenship*, from the Talloires Network for Social Responsibility in Higher Education. In addition, the *Chinatown Renewal Project* has been featured in national and international conferences in Washington DC (2011, *Evidence of Success: Institutions of Higher Education Engaging Communities*); and at Portland State University (2011, *International Institute on Community University Partnerships: Keynote Presentation*).

[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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