



Social Innovation Generation: Student Leadership Initiative



Social Innovation Generation: Student Leadership Initiative (SIG:SLI) is part of California Campus Compact's three-year initiative that is catalyzing and mobilizing colleges and universities to aid in the state's recovery and renewal. SIG:SLI encourages and supports change-making student-led service and service-learning projects that will not only aid those hardest hit by California's economic crisis, but also help California emerge from the crisis with a more innovative, green and sustainable economic future.

Cohort 1

California State University, Chico

With the city of Chico's increasing number of home foreclosures and a poverty rate that is almost double that of the state, more than a quarter of its residents now live below the poverty line. To help nonprofit organizations in the city meet the needs of a growing population in crisis, Community Action Volunteers in Education, a program of the Associated Students at California State University, Chico, is developing Chico Homeless Advocates. Through this program, student leaders are providing outreach and support to homeless individuals and families along with volunteer hours to support the staff of shelters, and meal, job-training, counseling and mental health outreach programs. California State University, Chico is collaborating on the Chico Homeless Advocates Program with the City of Chico, Greater Chico Homeless Task Force, Torres Community Shelter, Jesus Center Kitchen and the Sixth Street Drop-in Center.



University of California, Los Angeles

To address the rising rate of childhood obesity among at-risk youth in Los Angeles, introduce and encourage healthier eating options and restart school garden programs lost to unprecedented budget cuts, University of California, Los Angeles's 200-member E3: Ecology, Economy and Equity student group is partnering with Farm to School, a nationwide nonprofit organization that promotes healthy eating and improving school nutrition by connecting K-12 schools with local farms and maintaining school gardens. Through the partnership, students are restarting school gardens and sustainable food programs in communities that have been most adversely impacted by California's economic downturn while providing mentorship to middle school and high school youth through their collaborative work in the gardens.

Cohort 2

California State University, Monterey Bay

Fifteen miles from California State University, Monterey Bay's Seaside, California, campus is the 59,000-person Latino immigrant community of East Salinas, known as Alisal. With a major freeway separating Alisal from the rest of Salinas, residents grapple with physical, social and economic isolation and marginalization, high unemployment rates and gang violence. Partnering with an array of local agencies, including the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF), the Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) AmeriCorps Literacy Program and the Alisal Unified School District, student leaders from California State University, Monterey Bay, are creating the Alisal Peace Garden Project.

The Alisal Peace Garden Project is addressing the social and educational needs of Alisal's school-aged youth and supporting community violence prevention efforts, and the creation of a stronger, peaceful, more vibrant future for Alisal's youth and their families. Student leaders are collaborating with K-12 schools to: (1) build safe, life-affirming educational and community spaces for youth and their families; (2) provide youth with garden immersion experiences that create and sustain community; (3) encourage and inspire youth to become engaged citizens; and (4) provide road maps for youth to commit to a college education and envision academic and career paths focused on social and ecological responsibility.

University of California, San Diego

Student leaders at the University of California, San Diego, long known as a leading training institution for healthcare professionals, are mobilizing their fellow students along with faculty, staff and community organizations to create Health Corps. Health Corps is aiding the more than 20 percent of San Diego County residents who have no health insurance and limited access to health care. Health Corps is partnering with local community medical clinics and nonprofit agencies to provide healthcare services, including language translation, one-on-one assistance and medical literacy support, to those in need. It is anticipated that thousands of additional patients will be served yearly because of the support that will be provided by Health Corps.

Cohort 3

Marymount College

Despite their own resources being strained by current economic challenges, the Boys and Girls Club in the greater Los Angeles region is working to fill a gap in after school programming caused by deep budget cuts in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Student leaders at Marymount College in Palos Verdes, California, will partner with local chapters of the Boys and Girls Club to provide services and programming to the more than 2,200 at-risk youth these chapters serve each day. Student leaders will mentor high school students, provide tutoring and coaching on exam taking, and aid with computer literacy and the college application process. Marymount students also will provide specialized instruction to youth in dance, fine arts and music.

Moreno Valley College

To address the shortage of health care providers delivering comprehensive primary health care to rural and migrant workers and their families in California, Moreno Valley College Physician Assistant Program will provide Spanish cultural and linguistic preparedness to Physician Assistants (PAs) who will serve in rural and urban areas. In addition to increasing access to these communities, this program will integrate cultural awareness, sensitivity and a deep understanding of the needs of this population; and provide exposure to future employment opportunities for PAs.

Notre Dame de Namur University

Public schools throughout California continue to face significant budget cuts. For schools in Northern California's San Mateo County, these cuts have resulted in teacher layoffs, increased class sizes, reduced art, music and drama programming, and closings of school libraries. Students at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, California, will learn and practice the social change model of leadership as they "adopt" a local public elementary school and work with the principal, teachers, students and parents in addressing the school's currently unmet needs. Students also will organize a community dialogue to discuss the effects budget cuts are having on K-12 education.

Saint Mary's College of California

Oakland, California, is struggling with many challenges, including high unemployment, widespread poverty and significant crime. Declining taxes due to home foreclosures and real estate transfers have led to a nearly \$50 million reduction in the city budget. Student leaders at Saint Mary's College of California will work to expand their direct-service efforts in Oakland and explore ways to strengthen the college's community partnerships and contributions to Oakland's economic and community development.

Stanford University

One Hundred Thousand Cheeks (100K Cheeks) is a Stanford-based student group dedicated to registering 100,000 people with the national bone marrow donor registry by June 2012. Due to shortages in volunteers caused by the economic downturn for charitable organizations such as Be the Match, venues for fresh volunteers are in high demand. As a result, by hosting drives and providing the volunteers, 100K Cheeks will be able to offer a cost-effective means to advance the collective goal of their community partners to help save lives. They plan to harness social media, combined with on-the-ground efforts, to achieve the goal of getting one hundred thousand individuals into the National Bone Marrow Registry this year. To design and execute the effort, they plan to work with OpenIDEO, which will allow them to tap into a community of designers to solve this specific challenge.

University of California, Riverside

Riverside, California, is one of the nation's cities that have been hardest hit by the recession. During the two-year period from 2007 to 2009, the poverty rate grew by 31 percent, and a recent news article described Riverside as on "the front lines of the Great Recession." The demand for social services, particularly related to food assistance, far exceeds the support that nonprofit organizations and city and local government agencies are able to provide. Student leaders at the University of California, Riverside, will work in partnership with these entities to develop and manage sustainable community gardens on uncultivated plots of land throughout Riverside. These gardens will become community spaces that generate edible and medicinal plants for nonprofit organizations, citizen groups, clinics and businesses that provide assistance within their surrounding communities.

University of California, San Francisco

The South of Market District in San Francisco, California, has the city's largest percentage of people living below the federal poverty level (23 percent). The majority of residents are Filipino individuals with limited English language proficiency. Many have significant health needs, but poor health literacy and inadequate resources to get the medical care they need. To meet the health needs of this community, a team of student leaders from the University of California, San Francisco, Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Nursing will establish a bilingual health center at a local community center and nearby elementary school to provide health screenings, health education, health coaching and individualized patient care.



Cohort 4

California Institute of Integral Studies

By identifying community trauma and developing methods to enable community-based organizations to work on healing and overcoming emotional and social challenges, the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) Student Leadership Initiative project has the potential to serve as an intervention and prevention tool for economic policy. By demonstrating and responding to community trauma, and through the relationships and collective identity of a community, non-profits will be better positioned to identify and advocate for holistic and integral public policy that allows individuals and organizations to work together. Clinical students will be developing and trained on reflective "community trauma" learning curricula to work with community based organizations. They will collaboratively develop a community workshop for these organizations and, ultimately, the curricula will be used to develop an on-going CIIS course.

Pitzer College

The Social Innovation Project is a group of projects and activities developed by Pitzer College in response to requests by local tribal leaders to "help get our kids to college." As part of tribal service learning partnerships, involving over 12 classes and scores of students, Pitzer has sought to establish a broad Native "pipeline" to college, which is a factor in promoting minority college matriculation and success. Through participation in the proposed and ongoing Social Innovation Projects, a combination of diverse service-learning programs which include a conference, an Native open house at Pitzer, an Elder in Residence program, and other activities throughout the year, Pitzer students will be given opportunities to sustain important relationships with Tribal Nations, expand alliances and interaction with local Native American youth, create new programming, participate in teambuilding, plan events, facilitate agendas, learn intercultural skills, exercise leadership abilities, and assist in public education.



California Campus Compact gratefully acknowledges the Corporation for National and Community Service, Learn and Serve America Higher Education for its significant support in making the Social Innovation Generation grant initiative possible.

California Campus Compact
1600 Holloway Avenue
Pacific Plaza, Suite 750
San Francisco, CA 94132-4027
Phone: 415-338-3342
www.cacampuscompact.org

