

News

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California Campus Compact Announces Student Leadership Initiative Phase 3 Grants

Leading statewide higher education coalition awards grants to colleges and universities throughout California for change-making student-led service projects that will aid those hardest hit by the economic crisis.

December 1, 2010

San Francisco, CA – California Campus Compact announced today that five colleges and universities located throughout the state have been awarded grants of \$10,000 each for students on their campuses to participate in the third phase of California Campus Compact’s Social Innovation Generation: Student Leadership Initiative. Social Innovation Generation: Student Leadership Initiative 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.

The five grantees selected to participate in the third phase of the Social Innovation Generation: Student Leadership Initiative are:

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.

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.

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.

California Campus Compact is funding Social Innovation Generation: Student Leadership Initiative and a second initiative, Social Innovation Generation: California Recovery and Renewal Initiative, through a three-year Learn and Serve America Higher Education grant of \$1.3 million from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Through both initiatives, California Campus Compact will work with more than 85 campuses, 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 500 faculty, staff and administrators and 300 nonprofit organizations.

In addition to the campuses awarded grants as part of the Student Leadership Initiative-Phase 3, California Campus Compact has awarded grants to the following colleges and universities to participate as lead collaborators in the Social Innovation Generation initiative: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; California State University, Chico; California State University, Fresno; California State University, Monterey Bay; Humboldt State University; San Francisco State University; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, San Diego; and University of San Diego.

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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