



Educating Students to Change Our World

CALIFORNIA CAMPUS COMPACT'S
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
STUDENT FELLOWSHIP

I partnered. I learned. I worked. I taught. I mentored. I advised. I created.

I made a difference.



Campus Compact
California

A Transformative Experience

The Community Engagement Student Fellowship (CESF) connects college students with their communities through community-campus partnerships that address pressing social needs. While working to improve the lives of others, these students awaken to the root causes of complex societal problems and to their own ability to work toward solutions—both now and into the future.

California Campus Compact (CACC), a statewide coalition of higher education leaders, established the CESF program in 2013 as part of its mission to educate students for civic and social responsibility. Since that time, CACC has deployed more than 150 CESF Fellows on campus and in the community. These students work to address issues affecting California and beyond, ranging from health disparities to poverty and homelessness to college access and success.

ENGAGING STUDENTS IN LIFE-CHANGING WORK

The Fellowship supports college students in conducting service and service-learning work in programs organized through CACC member campuses across the state. CESF Fellows provide both hands-on service through community agencies and infrastructure support through their campuses. They complete at least 50 hours of service work over a 4-month academic term in exchange for a \$500 scholarship from CACC.

As part of its ongoing assessment, CACC surveys all CESF Fellows on completion of their term. Survey results compiled from the 151 Fellows who served from 2013 through spring 2018 show an astonishing impact: students report a huge leap not only in skills and knowledge but also in their desire to apply those skills in their communities.

Of the 151 CESF Fellows participating between 2013 and 2018, **100%** say they learned how to leverage their knowledge and skills to create positive community change, and **99%** affirm that they are now more committed to future community engagement.

FOSTERING A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Remarkably, CESF Fellows serve for an average of 62 hours, well above the 50-hour required minimum. A third of all Fellows served for 60–90 hours, and 11% for 100 hours or more.

These results indicate a deep commitment to the work as well as



“I learned how to use the skills from higher education to be an advocate for those who are oppressed.”

CESF Contribution to California's Communities



151
student Fellows



9,362
hours worked



\$272,340
in service¹

¹ Service value uses Independent Sector's 2017 figure for the value of volunteer time.

a remarkable return on the \$500 per-student investment.

In total, CESF Fellows have worked for thousands of hours in communities throughout California, providing enormous social and economic value.

A New Generation of Committed Leaders

The Fellowship is designed to foster student leaders in community engagement throughout California. CESF Fellows have demonstrated their leadership abilities by providing thousands of hours of service, facilitating projects, coordinating activities, mentoring others, and creating new programs. These opportunities help students realize their potential as leaders while spurring a deeper commitment to working toward social change.

Proportion of all CESF Fellows who say the program has...



Helped them improve their leadership skills



Strengthened their commitment to future engagement



Taught them how to use their knowledge to create positive change

CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP

Students report overwhelmingly that the skills and confidence they develop through CESF have positioned them for future leadership. Many also highlight the ability to bring diverse groups of people together to achieve results.



"I learned that I can work with a variety of people with all different types of abilities and can bridge the gap between all of those differences."

"I learned that each individual has a story that is worth listening to... common values and experiences can bind us despite our differences."

ENGAGING COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

One critical aspect of the program is developing students' ability and desire to apply their talents in working toward positive community change. Fully 100% of CESF Fellows agree that because of the program, "I increased my understanding of how to use my own knowledge and skills to improve the community." Nearly all of these already dedicated students say they are now even more committed to future engagement.



"What most stands out to me is the real commitment I feel toward community engagement and development."

"I am now ready to start other projects and initiatives in the community."

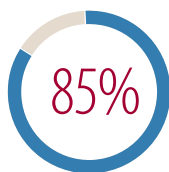
"It will be incorporated in my career so that I can continue to be involved with the community for the rest of my life."

Demonstrated Benefits for Students, Campuses, and Communities

In addition to helping Fellows gain the knowledge and drive to improve their world, CESF offers a range of benefits for the students, campuses, and communities the program engages.

INCREASING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION

A major program outcome is that students recognize the importance of their own education in building the future. The vast majority of CESF Fellows said community engagement increased their understanding of the personal and community value of completing their college degree. This was particularly true among the two-thirds of Fellows who identified as students of color.



85% of all CESF Fellows *strongly agree* that the program has increased their understanding of the value of completing a college degree.

“This semester I realized that college doesn’t just mean classes and tests, but involves all sorts of learning opportunities. In fact, my work this semester has completely changed my mind and now I am fully motivated to continue through college.”

These findings reinforce the value of community engagement in helping students clarify their academic and career goals and, by extension, improving retention and graduation rates.



“The Fellowship has given me motivation to persevere through my nursing program.”

“This experience pushed me on my career goal of working in policy and finding ways to make reform.”

DEVELOPING REAL-WORLD SKILLS— AND THE CONFIDENCE TO USE THEM

CESF Fellows note that they not only develop communication and other skills but also apply them with more assurance. Nearly all said the program made them more aware of their own strengths and skills. Females (91%) and students of color (92%) were most likely to *strongly agree* that they now better understand their personal and professional capacities.

Students specifically called out the kinds of real-world abilities that communities and employers need, including team-building, communication, and technology skills.



“I feel much more confident in my technological and communication abilities.”

“The training I received gave me skills that will help me throughout life, [including] public speaking, time management, and cultural sensitivity.”

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

CESF Fellows team with a wide variety of community organizations to create or enhance vital programs. Most work with nonprofits or K–12 schools; others serve in government agencies or health care facilities. In addition to direct service, Fellows provide infrastructure support through their campus service and service-learning centers.

Student Fellows work on a range of issues that support community vitality, including education, health care, poverty, hunger, homelessness, senior care, youth mentoring, and domestic violence. They also address broad societal concerns such as social justice, cultural awareness, immigration, and environmental sustainability.

SUSTAINING CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

California’s colleges and universities also reap benefits from the Fellowship program. The infrastructure support provided by CESF Fellows boosts the capacity of campuses and communities to partner in ways that benefit all. In doing so, these Fellows help campuses fulfill their education and civic missions.

Student Fellows also report that they now more fully understand the role of colleges and universities as agents of positive change. As one noted, “I learned just how much my campus contributes to the community.” The Fellowship is thus creating education champions who serve as advocates for campus engagement efforts.

Working with their campuses and their communities, CESF Fellows have:

Helped disabled veterans regain a sense of independence through scuba certification.

Tutored the children of Syrian refugees to help them acclimate to a new life.

Mentored youths to help them leave gangs or escape human traffickers.

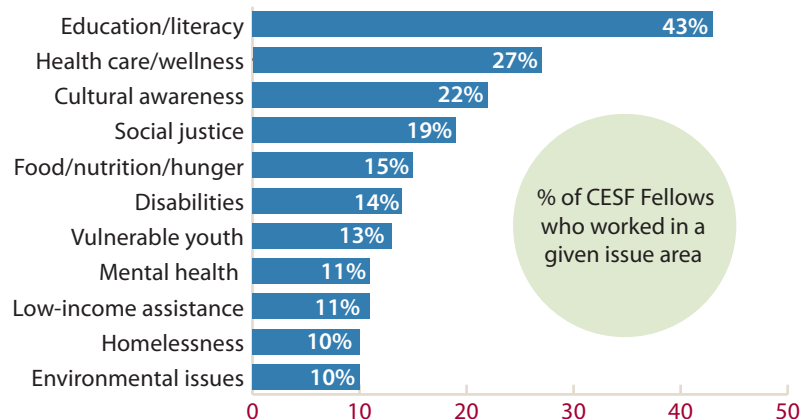
Helped the homeless access resources to secure permanent housing.

Provided physical therapy for seniors and patients with dementia.

Created communitywide recycling and sustainability programs.

...and much more.

Top Issue Areas Addressed, 2013–2018





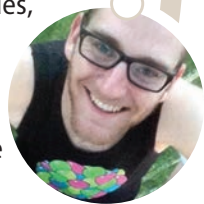
"If I dedicate the time and effort to my set of ideals, I am capable of making the world a better place. . . . I have learned that I can bring about change by giving everyone the tools to do their fair share of the process known as democracy."



Uma Nicole, a master's student in bioethics at Loyola Marymount, worked with the campus Office for Sustainability and Center for Service and Action, as well as several community partners, to reduce food waste and implement a grassroots composting program.



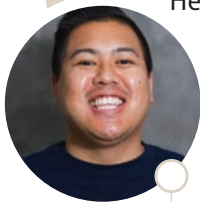
Martin Mijares and Ryan Eckford of San Jose State University wanted to alleviate homelessness in San Jose. After studying the causes of housing issues, they started a campus group to help homeless students gain access to resources and to provide them with supplies.



Sayuri Takagawa of UC Berkeley worked to fight human trafficking through both direct service and advocacy. In addition to instructing girls affected by or at risk for sexual exploitation, she founded a campus group to raise awareness of the conditions that can lead to human trafficking.

Meet the CESF Fellows

Here are profiles of just a few recent CESF Fellows working throughout California to address social and community issues.



Richard Gavino, a physical therapist assistant student at Stanbridge University, worked with Alzheimer's patients to help them build physical skills. He says the project taught him how to establish a rapport with patients and solidified his commitment to helping those with dementia.



Alejandra Morales and Janette Ramirez of CSU Dominguez Hills worked with Native American communities to provide resources for diabetes prevention and management. They created written materials, presented workshops, and developed tools for tracking calories and physical activity.



ABOUT CALIFORNIA CAMPUS COMPACT

California Campus Compact (CACC) works to build the collective commitment and capacity of the state's colleges, universities, and communities to advance civic and community engagement. Through innovative initiatives, grant funding, professional development, research, and publications, CACC invests in and champions more than 500,000 campus and community members each year in groundbreaking activities to support and expand civic and community engagement throughout California. For more information about CACC and the Community Engagement Student Fellowship, see www.cacampuscompact.org.

ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT TOOL

CACC surveys all students who participate in the CESF program. A recent survey report compiled all qualitative and quantitative results from CESF Fellows who served from 2013 to 2018 (n=151). The survey analysis was conducted by Christine M. Cress, PhD, professor of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Service-Learning at Portland State University.