

News

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Laurie Laird, of Santa Clara University, Named California Campus Compact's 2011 Richard E. Cone Award Recipient

Santa Clara University's Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education Associate Director recognized for her impact on service-learning and community-campus partnerships throughout the San Francisco and South Bay Area.

January 20, 2011

San Francisco, CA – California Campus Compact has selected Ms. Laurie Laird, Associate Director of the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education, at Santa Clara University, as the recipient of California Campus Compact's 2011 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 the state of 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.

"Laurie is a trusted and valued colleague among many in the higher education and service-learning field. She demonstrates 'values in action,' with her exemplary ability to bring many different people together in strong community and campus partnerships. To so many, Laurie clearly embodies the spirit and heart of community partnerships," said Elaine Ikeda, Ph.D., Executive Director of California Campus Compact. "We are pleased to recognize Laurie Laird and highlight her excellent body of work in the field of service-learning and civic engagement by presenting her with the 2011 Richard E. Cone Award."

For more than a decade, Ms. Laird has been a tireless advocate of human rights and community-based learning, building strong and sustainable partnerships between the University and over 50 community organizations in the San Jose and Santa Clara area. Since she joined the University in 1998, she has served as the Program Director of the Sobrato and Loyola Residential Learning Communities and as the Program Director of the Arrupe Center. She has a longstanding commitment to international relations and has for the last seven years, led a delegation of faculty and administrators to El Salvador annually, educating faculty and staff on the current social justice and community issues in El Salvador. Prior to joining the university, Ms. Laird worked for the Global Fund for Women as a grants manager and program coordinator.

In her current position as the Associate Director at the Ignatian Center, she founded and now co-directs the Jean Donovan Summer Fellowship program, providing undergraduate student grants for summer community-based social justice work. In addition to coordination of the immersion trips for faculty to El Salvador, she oversees the community-based learning programs of the Ignatian Center, including the support of faculty in community-based learning pedagogy. Under her leadership, over 1200 students per year engage in service in the community, and reflect deeply on the meaning of community service and civic engagement.

Michael E. Engh, S.J., President of Santa Clara University said, "Laurie has not only made significant contributions to partnerships between Santa Clara University and the local community, but her work and wisdom have benefitted other institutions of higher education. We are fortunate to have such a shining light on our campus who embodies our 3 C's of competence, conscience and compassion."

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

Richard E. Cone, Ed.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 health, 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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