

News

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California Campus Compact Announces Student Leadership Initiative Phase 2 Grants

Leading statewide higher education coalition awards grants to California State University, Monterey Bay and University of California, San Diego for change-making student-led service projects that will aid those hardest hit by the economic crisis.

July 6, 2010

San Francisco, CA – California Campus Compact announced today that California State University, Monterey Bay and University of California, San Diego have been awarded grants of \$10,000 each for students on their campuses to participate in the second 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.

California State University, Monterey Bay

Student leaders at California State University, Monterey Bay will create the Alisal Peace Garden Project. 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, will create the Alisal Peace Garden Project.

The Alisal Peace Garden Project will address the social and educational needs of Alisal’s school-aged youth and support community violence prevention efforts, and the creation of a stronger, peaceful, more vibrant future for Alisal’s youth and their families. Student leaders will collaborate 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.

“Through the Alisal Peace Garden Project, the youth and families of Alisal will know they are not alone,” said Deborah Burke, service-learning leadership faculty coordinator at California State University, Monterey Bay. “California State University, Monterey Bay students will be engaged to think critically about how college access affects different communities, and the significance of natural spaces and parks in violence prevention, community well being and a greater sense of investment in community building.”

University of California, San Diego

Student leaders at the University of California, San Diego, long known as a leading training institution for healthcare professionals, will mobilize their fellow students along with faculty, staff and community organizations to create Health Corps. Health Corps will aid the more than 20 percent of San Diego County residents who have no health insurance and limited access to health care. Health Corps will partner 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.

“Numerous health organizations in San Diego County have seen dramatic increases in patients because of financial hardships brought on by the downturn in the economy,” said Ryan Crawford, community service coordinator at the University of California, San Diego. “Our students are very excited about using their talents and aspirations to lead Health Corps. It is a vital effort that will provide the underserved in our community the health services they so desperately need.”

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.

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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