

Service Recognition Event
May 5, 2010, 5 pm – 6:30 pm
University House
Remarks by President John D. Welty

Presentation start time: Approximately 5:30 pm

Welcome and thank you all for coming! Each year I really look forward to this event, because it gives us an opportunity to celebrate what happens when a university like ours makes a commitment to work with and serve the region. You are all part of that work and it is my privilege tonight to recognize the many ways that you are helping to make our community a better place.

There is no doubt that this has been a difficult year for our nation, our region, our campus and for many of you. We are living through some of the most troubling economic times since the Great Depression. But, just like those living in the 1930s and '40s, many people across the nation have responded not by withdrawing from society, but by reaching out to serve others.

If there is any silver lining to the challenges confronting our nation, it can be seen in the stories of service each of you are involved with.

Your service has enriched the lives of our students, sustained and supported our region's nonprofits, and has made a difference for thousands of people in need all across the Central Valley and beyond. It is for these reasons that I offer you my sincere and personal thanks for all you do on behalf of others.

Tonight is an opportunity to celebrate our common work. In just a moment, we will recognize a few of your peers who exemplify the *Spirit of Service* that exists in all of you. These awards don't only honor the individuals recognized. Instead, they are intended to acknowledge the tremendous commitment each of you make to our community through your service efforts. We offer these few awards as a way of celebrating the best of what each and every one of you stand for.

I am very pleased to announce that many of the students here with us tonight are some of the 131 students who will receive the *President's Volunteer Service Award*. This is a national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service and issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

California State University, Fresno is extremely proud to join the President of the United States in recognizing these student volunteers who consistently take the time to make a difference in the lives of others.

Award recipients receive an official President's Volunteer Service Award lapel pin, a personalized certificate of achievement, and a note of congratulations from the President of the United States.

Will ALL of the students here tonight please stand so we can recognize and thank you for your service.

Now, on to the Sprit of Service awards.

American Humanics

Would Dr. Matthew Jendian please join me at the podium.

The American Humanics Nonprofit Administration Program at Fresno State was established in fall 1998 by Dr. Matthew Jendian. The program has won multiple awards and consistently plays a major role in the annual American Humanics Management Institute.

For example, at this year's conference, we were thrilled to send the largest delegation from our campus to ever participate in this national event.

Of the 36 Fresno State participants, of which I was thrilled to be included, 11 of us delivered two poster sessions and five workshop sessions at the conference.

Tonight, we acknowledge and honor 34 American Humanics students who have completed internships of at least 150 hours during this academic year. We also want to individually recognize 26 students – a record number - who are graduating with AH National Certification in Nonprofit Management and Leadership this year. These graduates will bring the AH Alumni total to 115 individuals since 2001.

Would the following students please come forward as I call your name?

Nona Akopyan

Cindy Ballesteros

Katherine Borofka

Luis Castellanos

Mor Chang

Lorena Chavez

Marisol Detjen

Ulises Fernandez

Melissa Freeman

Jeff Garner

Marla Hartman

Julie Herd

Darcy Lien

Kao Mindy Lor

Brennan Miller

Gina Molina

Jonathan Munoz

Anya Nazaroff

Dana Parker-McClain

Eboney Pearson

Walter Ramirez

Maggie Simms

Lucero Karina Torres

Kau Vue

Melissa Watkins

Special recognition goes to Gina Molina and Marla Hartman who pursued special majors and have earned B.S. degrees in Nonprofit Administration.

Congratulations to all of these soon-to-be graduates and AH alumni.

Would all of the American Humanics students here with us tonight also come forward?

Would Ms. Marla Hartman please join me at the podium?

Marla Hartman is an example of the standard of excellence towards which our American Humanics program constantly aspires.

Marla graduated Magna Cum Laude from Fresno State in December 2009, with a B.S. in Community Benefit Administration & Organizational Behavior. This program required a blend of coursework from Management, Marketing, Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Sociology, Psychology, and Anthropology – and she accomplished this with a 3.93 GPA.

Prior to returning to school in 2007, Marla was a business owner for 16 years in Southern California. Her volunteer work on various boards, including Chair for Miracle House, a women's residential addiction recovery program,

motivated her to dedicate her professional career to building the capacity of community benefit organizations in the Central Valley.

Marla currently serves on the board for California Valley Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and is working in partnership to bring Stewards, Inc. to Fresno to assist the homeless population.

I'm pleased to note that Marla is staying on at Fresno State as Project Manager for a Strengthening Communities Fund statewide capacity building grant with our American Humanics Program and the State of California, Department of California Volunteers.

Marla, I am happy to present this *Spirit of Service* award to you for all you have accomplished.

University Volunteer of the Year Award

Would all of the Richter Center Ambassadors please come forward and would Ms. Celeste Pilegard please join me at the Podium.

The Richter Center Ambassadors are students who, as volunteers, help promote service and community engagement to their fellow Fresno State students. This group, in its second year of existence, has already become recognized around the CSU as an exemplary student leadership program.

It seemed appropriate to recognize them at this time, as one of their members is this year's University Volunteer of the Year!

Each year a committee of faculty, staff and students has the difficult task of deciding who will receive the annual University Volunteer of the Year Award. This year's award was presented at the "Hands Across the Valley" awards luncheon on April 21st.

This year, Ms. Celeste Pilegard was selected because of her deep personal commitment to service and for her efforts to engage others in service. As one of the students who founded the Bulldog Pantry, Celeste has displayed her caring, leadership and willingness to serve.

As a member of the Richter Center Ambassadors, Celeste was instrumental in several efforts to promote service, including the Stories of Impact project. She has also produced several videos featuring the service work Fresno State students are involved in.

Celeste has a history of showing others, both through action and words, how important helping others can be for oneself and for those served.

By winning the University Volunteer of the Year award, Celeste was also awarded the “Marc and Marjorie Radin Award for Excellence in Service.” This \$1,500 scholarship is presented to one student each year who exemplifies the kind of service work and scholarship that Marc and Marj Radin envisioned when they started the Community Service Scholarship Program in 1990.

Celeste, congratulations on this award and the scholarship, and thank you for your service!

Community Service Scholarship Program

Would all of those students who have received a Community Service Scholarship please come forward at this time, and would Ms. Sue Vang and Ms. Aleta Wolfe please join me at the podium.

It was 20 years ago that the late Marc and Marjorie Radin came to Fresno State with an idea on how to help engage our students in service to the community. The Radins spent much of their lives making our community a better place and their legacy lives on through the Community Service Scholarships.

This year, 74 students have each provided 150 hours of service at designated nonprofits through this program, providing over 10,500 hours of service to our community.

Upon completion of their hours, these students are awarded a \$1,500 scholarship designed to help them pay for college and further encourage their involvement in the community.

Sue Vang received her degree in Liberal Studies and will be graduating with her Masters degree in Counseling & Student Services - Higher Education later this month. During the fall 2009 semester, Ms. Vang participated in both the Community Service Scholarship Program and the Scholars Service Grant Program. She volunteered 150 hours with Stone Soup as a Hmong Outreach Radio Producer and another 60 hours as a Tutor with the Fresno State Student Support Services program. Sue performed over 210 hours this year while maintaining a 3.82 GPA.

Congratulations to Sue on winning this “Spirit of Service” award, and to all the students involved in the Community Service Scholarship Program.

Scholars Service Grant Program

Would all of the students who have received a Scholars Service Grant this year please come forward and would Ms. Esperanza Navarro please join me at the podium.

In addition to coordinating the Community Service Scholarship Program activities, Aleta Wolfe also coordinates the Scholars Service Grant program.

Aleta, is a key component of our university engagement efforts. Through her work in Career Services, she facilitates the involvement of over 200 Fresno State students in community service each year. Aleta, thank you for your work!

The Scholars Service Grant program enhances academic study with community engagement opportunities in the university and community. Renewable grants of \$960 are awarded to participating students who complete 60 hours of service per semester at an approved site. In order to be eligible, students must have a significant unmet financial need and a 3.2 cumulative GPA. 142 students participated in the program this year, volunteering over 15,000 hours.

Ms. Esperanza Navarro maintains a 3.75 GPA and will be earning her multiple subject credential in just a couple of weeks.

She has participated in the Scholars Service Grant program for 7 semesters, volunteering over 420 hours! Last fall Esperanza volunteered as a Teacher Assistant at Hidalgo Elementary School and this spring at Burroughs Elementary School through the Fresno State California Mini Corps project.

Congratulations to Esperanza and to all of our Scholars Service Grant recipients.

You have just seen some of the most outstanding students at Fresno State and, I think you will agree, some of the finest members of our entire community! Please join me again in congratulating and thanking all of our students!

Service-Learning

Will all the faculty members involved in teaching service-learning classes please come forward.

Will Professor Betsy Hays please join me at the podium.

This academic year, nearly 4,500 students, *that's over 25% of our total student population*, took part in service-learning course. In these courses, students apply the knowledge they gain in the classroom to addressing community needs through service. Altogether, these service-learning students provided approximately 115,000 hours of service this year!

The incredible service and learning experiences that come from these courses would not be possible without the exceptional work of the faculty members standing here, and many others who are not with us this evening.

Professor Betsy Hays is a faculty member in the Mass Communication and Journalism Department, where she teaches courses in Public Relations. Betsy is held in extremely high regard by her faculty colleagues, her students and her community partners. She has been an integral part in transforming the curriculum of the MCJ – Public Relations option so that there are now three courses that require service-learning in that one program.

The service-learning projects she engages her students in are demanding of her own time and of her students. They also extremely productive in terms of the student learning and community benefits that result from the projects.

Recently, Professor Hays became a founding member of the new Service-Learning Subcommittee of the Academic Senate, where her leadership has been key in helping improve the quality and quantity of service-learning offerings across the university curriculum.

I am happy to present this *Spirit of Service* award to Professor Betsy Hays.

I would be remiss if I did not quickly thank one other faculty member here this evening. Dr. Sally Tannenbaum has been a leader in our service-learning efforts for many years. In addition to many other highlights, Sally was the Faculty Service-Learning Mentor for our university the last 4 years. Unfortunately for us, but probably something she is very excited about, Sally is entering the Faculty Early Retirement Program this year and will be ending her tenure as the Faculty Service-Learning Mentor. Sally, from all of us, thank you for your many years of service and learning!

Staff Spirit of Service Award

Will Lanny Larson please join me at the podium.

Each year, hundreds of our university faculty and staff members are involved in some form of personal service to the community. So far this year, we know that they have provided **well in excess** of 26,000 hours of volunteer time.

After retiring from the Fresno Bee, Lanny Larson came to work at Fresno State as a member of our University Communications Staff. Among many other duties, Lanny is responsible for publishing our outstanding “Fresno State Magazine.” Thanks to Lanny and his colleagues, the Fall 2009 magazine, titled “Faces of Service”, featured stories on the many ways our university community is engaged in serving our community.

Even though his duties often require him to work long hours, he still finds just a *little* time to volunteer around the community. In the last 18 months or so, Lanny has volunteered approximately 300 hours with agencies and events such as Tree Fresno, The Newman Center, Earth Day, the Two Cities Marathon and the Catholic Professional and Business Breakfast Club, just to name a few.

With this *Spirit of Service award* we thank you, Lanny, for your outstanding support of Fresno State’s service efforts, and for your own volunteer work.

Will Dr. Nora Chapman, Dr. Stephen Rodemeyer and all Smittcamp Honors College students who are here with us this evening please join me up front.

The Smittcamp Family Honors College is named in honor of Earl and Muriel Smittcamp and their family, whose initial donation of one million dollars provided the foundation for the Honors College in 1997. After just over 10 years in existence, the Smittcamp Family Honors College is recognized as one of the top programs of its kind in the Western United States. It is recognized not only because of the outstanding students involved, the rigorous coursework, and the extensive support provided to students, but also because of the service the Honors College students provide to our community.

Last year, Honors College students recorded over 3,300 hours of service to the community. This year, they are sure to surpass that number. However, the impact of their service, like all other volunteer work, can not be measured by mere hours alone.

This year, the Honors College students decided to recommit themselves to offering their time and talents in service to others. At President Michelle Smith's prompting, the Council of President's Scholars encouraged all of the Honors students to adopt a Make a Wish child, Miguel, in order to fulfill his dream of going to Disneyland.

Not only did the students arrange events to help fulfill Miguel's dream, they exceeded it to the point of being able to help other children as well by raising over \$3,500. This achievement required the personal involvement of almost every one of the 200 Smittcamp Honors College students.

This one effort is but a single example of the many service projects undertaken by Honors College students at Fresno State, and of their commitment to service.

For all of their service over the last 10 plus years, I am happy to present the Smittcamp Honors College with this *Spirit of Service* award.

Community Partner Award

For our final award of the evening, will the representatives of Children's Hospital Central California Foundation please join me at the podium.

Most everyone in Fresno knows about the very special role Children's Hospital of Central California plays in our community. This gem of our community serves more children than any other any pediatric hospital north of San Diego, making them the second largest children's hospital in the state.

Almost everyone whose lived in the area for very long has had at least one of their young relatives treated by Children's. In fact, I would guess that many of you spent some time at Children's Hospital as a patient.

The Foundation is, of course, the principle fundraising arm of Children's Hospital Central California. It is also a place where many of our students get involved in service.

Students from the American Humanics program have completed their internships with this organization. A large number of Community Service Scholarship Students and many other interns have also served with the Foundation. While there, these students have learned first-hand how to apply the knowledge they gained in Fresno State classes to meeting the needs of a major nonprofit organization.

Additionally, thousands of our students have learned the joy of giving while volunteering as a part of various fundraisers coordinated by the Children's Hospital Foundation. For example, just since 2006, over 5,000 students have helped raise in excess of \$131,000 dollars as part of Kids Day.

Children's Hospital of Central California Foundation benefits greatly from our students' service, but the students and our entire community gain even more from them! I am honored to present this *Spirit of Service* award to the Children's Hospital of Central California Foundation.

There is one other couple I can never leave out when we are recognizing the folks who make our community engagement and service-learning efforts possible.

We recognize them not with an award, but with a warm round of well-deserved applause for their generosity, and for their example of how to live out the teaching, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Jan and Bud Richter, thank you for all you have done to help our university and our community become a better, more giving place to live and work!

In closing, I’d like to again thank each of you for the unique and incredibly valuable contributions you have made to our university and to our community. You are all a living example of the fact that service to others is a priceless gift, which you have given freely and regularly.

We look forward to working with all of you in the years to come as we strive to change the lives of our students and our community members through service and learning.

END OF PROGRAM