

COACHELLA VALLEY UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY

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PALM DESERT, Calif. The Palm Desert Campus of California State University, San Bernardino is once again connecting its students with the community through the state-funded program, Community-University Partnerships.

Community-University Partnerships sponsors and coordinates exciting service learning courses and events at the Palm Desert Campus. Service learning classes incorporate community service projects as a method to instruct students about the course topic while benefiting society at the same time.

Students who participate in service learning classes report an increased ability to implement textbook concepts and theories into “real world” application and feel a heightened sense of accomplishment derived from the intrinsic rewards of helping others.

“Students and society prosper whenever a symphonic blend of formal knowledge and community service unite. Education guides social responsibility,” says Dr. Cynthia Schreihans, Coordinator of Community-University Partnerships at the Palm Desert Campus.

A few new service learning courses have just been approved at the campus, including Elementary/Bilingual Education where students develop and teach reading and language arts lessons to children who are English language learners and special education students. Students also serve at after-school programs to develop and implement creative literacy activities.

Management students at the campus will attend the newly created Palm Desert Campus Service Learning Internship Night event to select an internship with a local non-profit agency or school. Internship projects will meet community needs and students will report back on the impact of their work.

Psychology students will volunteer at local non-profit agencies and compile a resource binder of agency descriptions and volunteer needs for campus use.

2007 also marked the first year of the annual Community University Educational Summit (CUES). This day-long conference offered the communities of the Coachella Valley and Palm Desert Campus students the opportunity to gain insight on topics of community concern including domestic violence, crime prevention and breast cancer awareness. The second annual CUES will take place on October 18, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the campus located at 37-500 Cook Street in Palm Desert. This year’s theme will be healthcare and will include speakers on stroke recovery, nutrition and wellness, alcohol and drug addiction, women and cardiovascular disease, dog-assisted therapy, and health needs assessment. Admission to CUES is free and all community members are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact Dr. Cynthia Schreihans at cschreih@csusb.edu or visit www.cuespdc.com or <http://partnerships.csusb.edu/sl.htm>.