



Associated Students, Incorporated Funding Support Proposal

Funding Year: 20109-220

Program: Educational Participation In Communities, CESP

Division: Academic Affairs

Prepared By: Victoria Mosqueda

MISSION

Our mission is to promote community service learning by creating opportunities for university students to implement classroom theory in real life situations.

Through community service, EPIC inspires and enables university students to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens by volunteering in a wide range of agencies serving a broad spectrum of communities throughout the Los Angeles area.

With the support of the administration, staff, and community partners, students are the keystone of the program and the basis for its continued success in serving the community.

ABSTRACT

Established in 1966 by the Associated Students Inc., and the Division of Student Affairs, the Educational Participation In Communities (E.P.I.C.) Program was created in the wake of the Watts Rebellion of 1965 to help address critical community needs by placing Cal State L.A. student volunteers in non-profit organizations. EPIC one of the longest sustained community service and engagement programs in the CSU system. For over five decades, EPIC has engaged Cal State L.A. students in co-curricular community service, supported the placement of students in a wide range of non-profit organizations serving a broad spectrum of communities throughout the Los Angeles area, and has supported service learning across academic disciplines. Traditionally, EPIC has employed student leaders who play a key role in program planning and implementation.

In 2014, EPIC came under the direction of the Center for Engagement, Service, and the Public Good. The goal of the center is to transform the University into a hub of civic engagement and public service for our communities, our city, and our region. This change has put EPIC in a position to work collaboratively with other Center programs to support campus initiatives and to build capacity for the new general education civic engagement requirement and service learning.

PROGRAM SERVICE AND DESCRIPTION

Service Learning

Service learning provides students with meaningful experiences outside of the classroom and in the community designed to enhance their understanding of knowledge and theory. EPIC collaborates with the Office of Service Learning to support students, faculty, and community partners with the implementation of service learning. Cal State LA students go away with access to related professional networks, exposure to careers in the field, and applicable work experience. EPIC supports faculty with connections to community organizations whose mission align with course outcomes, work with community partners to assure successful student placement and service completion, conduct classroom presentations to provide service learning guidelines, and collect data on student placement and experience.

Objective: Guide student placement that insures connection between service and course learning outcomes, while encouraging students to continue service beyond the course requirement.

Related Co-Curricular Volunteer and Service Events:

- Cal State LA Gives Back: On a semester basis, EPIC supports the coordination of a service day at a selected community partner site. Students, staff, and faculty join for a day of service. The semester opportunity accommodates 50-60 members of our campus community.

Objective: Provide a service opportunity where students can engage along with peers and other campus members for a common purpose. Exposure and participation encourage students to participate in future engagement activities.

America Reads and Counts Program

Established on the Cal State L.A. campus in 1999, this national tutorial program targets elementary school students who are achieving below grade level in the subjects of reading and math. Cal State L.A. students serve to provide support to the intervention plan designed by our partner sites. Annually, the program places 20-30 students across five local LAUSD elementary schools. Students serve as volunteers to our partner sites; however, students commit to the program by participating in the University's Federal Work Study Program.

Objective:

Students- Promote careers in education while providing students with an off-campus community service focused employment opportunity. The success of the program is measured by the full participation of the Cal State LA students committed to the academic year. The program provides students the opportunity to gain experience, network for potential career development, and supports the improvement of academic achievement through eligibility.

Community- Develop and sustain valuable community partnerships for the implementation of curricular and co-curricular community service engagement. Provide our community elementary schools with much needed support, while exposing children to valuable college role models. The success of the program sustains a Cal State LA presence and supports dynamic opportunities for students.

Related Co-Curricular Volunteer and Service Events:

- Read Across America: This annual event engages more than 60 Cal State LA students at five partner elementary schools to present asset-based college awareness and student success presentation for children from kindergarten-6th grades. In team effort, Cal State LA students reflect on a message that directly relates to their own college-going experience and develop a concrete and interactive activity to engage children in the awareness experience. The goal is to present college awareness and student success activities to more than 1200 elementary school children.

- Cal State LA, Here We Come: This annual event engages an estimated 400 elementary school children, their teachers, and principals on the Cal State LA campus for a college day experience. The event collaborates more than 150 Cal State LA students, faculty, and staff in various capacities to help host an educational and authentic visit to our campus. For this event, children experience college athletics, visit science labs, visit lecture halls, dine in the food court, and walk across campus throughout the school day as Cal State LA students do daily. Cal State LA students serve as college role models throughout the day, alongside children, as they inform children about the college experience.

Summer Youth Employment Program

In the 15th year of partnership with Para Los Ninos, EPIC coordinates the placement of an estimated 75 youth from local communities and from preference high schools. The intense four-week program provides youth, 14-24, with 120 hours of valuable hands-on work experience while exposing them to the possibilities of higher education. The campus community is committed to the program as more than 40 professional staff serve as direct supervisors to the youth, 10-15 Cal State LA students serve as work-site aides and peer mentors assuring success support of the program, and campus departments provide informational workshop sessions to provide important college preparation information. EPIC and Para Los Ninos work strategically to recruit and place community youth interested in attending Cal State LA, currently enrolled Cal State LA students, and potential community college transfers.

Objective: Provide local community youth with a unique opportunity to gain work experience and college exposure, while networking with campus community members and going away with a sense of belonging. The program intends to encourage higher education while engaging youth in college awareness and informational workshops.

Toy and Food Drive

The annual Drive is a campus-wide effort that engages the campus community throughout the fall semester. EPIC coordinates with Cal State LA departments to host collection boxes, works with student clubs and organizations to engage group effort through the Adopt A Family Campaign, and engages individual student volunteers on campus and in the community in the direct collection and distribution of donations. This Drives connects Cal State L.A. students with 17 community-based organizations, providing students with information about issue areas and a first-hand opportunity to engage with the issues at hand.

Objective:

Students- Engage students in a collaborative effort to address food insecurity on campus and in the community. Through direct participation, students learn about community-based organization that they may have an interest in serving.

Community- Create a Cal State LA presence with 17 community-based organizations and nurture our partnerships.

Community Service Recognition

The Community Service Recognition program coordinates recognition of the curricular and co-curricular community service contributions made by students throughout the academic year. Community service projects and programs are highlighted as students, community partners, staff, and faculty come together to celebrate our collaborative efforts.

Objective: Recognize the collaborative efforts made on behalf of students, staff, faculty, and community partners working together to address societal issues.

MARKETING AND OUTREACH PLAN

Various approaches taken to reach students:

Social Media- Marketing and outreach are strategically coordinated with the assistance of the student leader employed as our Digital Market Coordinator.

Student-wide Emails- At the start of each semester, a student-wide email goes out to inform students of the engagement opportunities available throughout the semester.

Classroom Presentations- Engagement opportunities announced as part of the informational presentations provided to service learning courses and beyond.

Cal State LA Publications- Coordination with the Office of Communication assures inclusion in Cal State LA's digital publications.

Tabling- Regular main walkway tabling efforts reach students directly and provide opportunities for information and questions.

Website- Information is available on the program webpage.

FINANCIAL PLAN AND EXPENSE DETIAL

Student Employment and Salary Schedule:

The primary funding source for student employment is Federal Work Study. EPIC coordinates with the Cal State LA Federal Work Study Coordinator to prioritize funding toward student employment for community service positions.

Student recruitment for employment positions is strategically coordinated with the service activities students engage in throughout the year. Students who have experienced service activities develop first-hand knowledge of the programming efforts and connect their interest early on. These student leaders join EPIC through formal employment, which offers them opportunities to grow their interest, develop leadership potential, gain work experience, and refine work ethic and skills.

Federal Work Study funding determined by student eligibility and student financial need, with the maximum award of \$4,000 per academic year. Students employed agree to commit to the program for the academic year, earning their award along the way. A student salary factored by the award amount, the number of weeks employed, and the pay rate- on average a student works 10 hours per week.

EPIC can support students who do not receive Federal Work Study with employment opportunities through other sources of funding:

Funding Request: Four Student Assistants

\$12.00 per hour at 20 hours per week for 34 weeks >

\$32,640

Toy and Food Drive

EPIC's annual Drive is supported 100% by donations. The extent of our efforts determine the donation support. Students are directly engaged in all efforts. Expenses incurred to support the Drive go to serve families in the community and to support student engagement activities.

Funding Request: Purchase of Toys and Food >

\$3,000

America Reads and Counts

Program tutors are engaged in regular trainings and planning meetings on campus and in the communities throughout the program year. These students are involved in capacity building and partnership development.

The co-curricular service activities are creative and require themed materials.

Funding Request: Support the Purchase of Supplies and Services > \$5,000

TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST> \$40,640

PROGRAM EVALUATION AND QUALITY CONTROL MECHANISMS

EPIC has a long history of working collaboratively with campus-wide offices and departments. Quality of programming managed by assuring University policy and protocols are in place. Working directly with offices like Public Safety, Student Health Center, Golden Eagle, and other pertinent areas, keep the campus community updated and EPIC gains assistance in the respective expertise area.

Evaluation of programming is managed through the process of assessing programming outcomes, funding capacity, logistical factors, volunteer commitment, and community collaboration.