



Associated Students, Incorporated - Funding Support Proposal

Funding Year: 2020-2021

Program: Educational Participation In Communities, CESP

Division: Academic Affairs

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## **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 is 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. Launched in 2014, the mission of the Center for Engagement, Service, and the Public Good is to work on behalf of the students of Cal State LA and the residents of Los Angeles to generate a positive change across Southern California.

## **PROGRAMS, SERVICE AND DESCRIPTIONS**

### **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. EPIC supports students with connections to community organizations whose mission align with student interest and service learning course content. EPIC works with community partners to assure successful student placement and service completion.

Objective: Guide student placement that assures connection between service and course learning outcomes, while providing service learning guidelines associated with risk management policy.

### **Community Partner Agency Fair**

The Community Partner Agency Fair hosts an estimated 20 non-profit organization on the main walkway for a tabling event. Agencies come prepared to offer engagement opportunities for Cal State LA students. A wide range of partners to attend a one-day event.

Objective: Provide first-hand opportunity for Cal State LA students to engage directly with community partners. Students take away information about engagement opportunities that pertaining to interest, academic and career objectives.

### **Cal State LA Gives Back**

A co-curricular day of service at a selected community partner site. Each semester, this day of service accommodates 50 students and other campus community members to join in a day of service and awareness. Transportation to service location provided.

Objective:

Engage students in a day of service that brings awareness to organization cause and mission. Students work with peers, members of the campus community, and organization staff to make an impact. Encourage future participation.

### **America Reads and Counts Program**

Established on the Cal State LA 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 LA students serve to provide support to the intervention plan designed by our partner sites. Annually, the program places 25-30 students across five local LAUSD elementary schools and one charter school. Students work directly with teachers and children, gaining first-hand experience in a classroom setting. This program provides Federal Work Study employment to students. On average, a student tutor provides eight hours of tutorial support per week. Students make a commitment to the program for one academic year.

In conjunction with the ongoing programing, this program coordinates college awareness events for elementary school children. Events connect children with Cal State LA college role models on the Cal State LA campus and in the community. Through asset-based programing, Cal State LA students share their college experiences in meaningful and creative approaches.

Objective: (1) Promote careers in education for Cal State LA students while providing direct access to school settings, school culture, and professional networks. (2) Sustain valuable community partnerships for implementation of curricular and co-curricular engagement.

### Related Co-Curricular Volunteer and Service Events:

**Read Across America:** This annual event coordinates the engagement of over 75 Cal State LA students at six partner elementary schools to present asset-based college awareness and student success presentation for children. In teams, Cal State LA students reflect on a message that directly relates to their own college-going experience and develop a concrete and interactive presentation to engage children. 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 as volunteers in various capacities to help host the 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 volunteer to serve as college role models for the day and event presenters.

Objective:

Engage students in a day of service that brings awareness to organization cause and mission. Students work with peers, members of the campus community, and organization staff to make an impact. Encourage future participation.

### Summer Youth Employment Program

In the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 on the Cal State LA campus. 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: (1) Provide local community youth with a unique opportunity to gain work experience and college exposure, while networking with members of the campus community. (2) Employ 10-15 Cal State LA students during the summer session to serve as co-program coordinator that provide leadership to program youth in effort to support their successful completion of the program.

### 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 Drive connects Cal State LA students with 17 community-based organizations, providing students with information about organization cause and mission. This project extends throughout the Fall semester and engages student through a series of one-day volunteer activities and group-based volunteer activities.

Objective: (1) Engage students in a campus-wide effort to collect food and toys for community families and the Cal State LA Food Pantry, while bringing awareness about issues of food insecurity. (2) Engage students directly with community organization.

## **Program Outcomes**

In 2020, EPIC will align learning outcomes with Student Life Learning Domains, which align with the University's mission, strategic initiatives and learning outcomes.

**Community Engagement:** Cal State LA students transition successfully into the college environment and build a greater sense of pride and belonging in the University community. They prepare themselves as leaders by participating in meaningful engagement opportunities civically. They are informed, engaged and make a positive impact on our city, state, nation and world.

**Personal, Social, and Professional Identity Development:** Cal State LA students pursue personal growth and understanding. They act independently with integrity, accountability, ethical consideration and advocacy for self and others. They achieve positive interpersonal relationships within multicultural settings, including valuing, respecting and learning from diversity. They understand, articulate and connect knowledge and interdisciplinary skills to career and life after graduation. They identify and connect with mentors who encourage and support them in successfully pursuing their goals and dreams

**Social Justice:** Cal State LA students develop skills informed by an awareness of identity, heritage and culture to navigate and transform institutional organizations and societal structures to advocate for social justice. They understand and articulate how the intersectionality of multiple identities shapes people and their experiences, which empowers students to engage with others in more meaningful ways.

## **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.

Cross-program collaboration and promotion – collaborate with other campus programs and departments.

**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.

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 - 20 hours per week.

Student recruitment to promote employment positions is strategically coordinated. EPIC outreaches to student volunteers, service learners, and offers positions through the Handshake student employment platform.

Student 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. Student employees are key to the success of all programing. Student employees are key to the success of all programming, as they bring valuable skills and knowledge to their work and the programs that engage students in service on and off campus.

**Funding Request**

ASI funding request to support student employment salaries will provide students with continued employment by subsidizing student salaries. In addition, will provide opportunities for student ineligible for Federal Work Study employment.

- 1. Student Assistant Employment
  - Six students \$39,780
  - (Justification: \$13.00/hour, 15 hours per week, 34 weeks)

**TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST>** \$39,780

**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.

Successful implementation of pre-determined program standards are fixed into the program planning process. The standards pertain to student success, asset-based program approach, and student access.

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