



# CENTER FOR **ENGAGEMENT, SERVICE & THE PUBLIC GOOD**

## **EDUCATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITIES (EPIC) ASI FUNDING SUPPORT PROPOSAL 2022-2023**

### **MISSION**

Our mission is to promote community engagement 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 community partner organizations 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 ASI and the Division of Student Affairs, EPIC is a program that was created and designed to accommodate the enthusiastic interest which college students have shown for inequity problems, and to place that student and associated skills effectively to work in the communities that border the Cal State LA campus. EPIC serves as a placement and training program for the many students who are interested in becoming acquainted community organizations and their causes. EPIC acts as a liaison between the community organizations, matching community causes with the interest of college students.

The development of opportunities and relationships between EPIC and community non-profit organizations exposes leaders of tomorrow to the issues facing community today. Working closely with hundreds of community partners overtime, EPIC has sustained profound

partnerships with non-profits and schools that have served to help educate and enrich Cal State LA students with valuable work experience and civic-minded values. To-date, EPIC manages more than 150 partnerships.

In 2014, EPIC came under the direction of the newly established 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. Under the Center's umbrella, EPIC works collaboratively with other Center programs to support campus initiatives and to build capacity for curricular and co-curricular community engagement.

## **VISION**

A program in which all students have pathways leading to advance equity and justice in Los Angeles communities.

## **SERVICES**

### **Classroom Presentations**

Informational presentations that inform students about the benefits of community service, risk management, community causes, and engagement opportunities.

### **Community Engagement Student Information Sessions**

Informational sessions that provide students with community engagement guidance.

### **Community Partners' Orientation**

Provides community partner organizations with university updates, service learning best practices, risk management guidance, student opportunity development and volunteer placement. Great opportunity for faculty to learn about community partners and possible learning outcome alignment for service learning courses.

### **Digital Resources**

Digitally accessible community engagement forms, guides, and information located on Eagle Connect and main webpage.

### **Eagle Connect**

Provides digital access to community partner information, student placement process, and engagement opportunities.

<https://www.volunteereasy.com/Site/eagleconnect#/>

## **PROGRAMS**

### **America Reads and Counts**

The ARAC program prepares Cal State LA students to transform their learning into ways that improve the quality of life for children. It aims to liberate communities and youth by promoting and advocating for education, social skills, health, and wellness.

Students offer mentorship, tutoring, college readiness preparation and workshops that focus on teaching and developing specific skills needed to succeed. In turn, they create a platform/curriculum that prepares our children to learn valuable life lessons overlooked by the district. These lessons are impactful when taught by college students whom have similar struggles and learn what it takes to persevere.

Cal State LA students learn to serve communities in the East Los Angeles, Lincoln Heights, and El Sereno areas and become inner city experts exposed to a wide range of social and economic issues. This exposure helps shape their awareness of other cultures, personalities and different upbringings. By practicing their knowledge, skills and abilities with adversely affected communities, they begin recognizing their own strengths as valuable citizens, capable of utilizing their education to change lives for the good.

#### **America Reads and Counts - Building Bridges and Connections (Spring Semester)**

University student-lead workshops that focus on Nourishment, Unity, Amor & Balance. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected our partnered elementary school children. LAUSD reported that Black, Latino, Low Income and English learners participated less in distance learning and greatly affected children's academic progress. ARAC tutors will apply research into a project that results in educational, meaningful, and relatable workshops to connect with, educate and uplift children's spirits. This initiative also engages a Service Learning course project- Creating Community with Parents (virtual).

#### *WORKSHOP THEMES*

1. *CONFIDENCE* Helps children boost their confidence: a. Encourage independence; b. recognize imposture syndrome and teach positive self-talk; c. promote self-cultural awareness and remind them of their strengths; d. teach and discuss resilience; c. have them reflect on their growth.

2. *SOCIAL SKILLS* Consideration of self and others: a. taking turns, being a good sport; b. seeing someone's perspective; c. dealing with worries, self-control; d. understanding personal space; e. self-regulating emotions, showing empathy, disagreeing disrespectfully.

3. *MENTAL HEALTH/HEALTHY HABITS* Review calming activities: a. healthy eating; b. safety

### **Summer Youth Employment Program**

In partnership with Para Los Niños, the Summer Youth Employment Program provides community youth ranging in age from 14-24 with a four-week paid work experience that prepares and trains them for the workforce and post-secondary education. The program model engages Cal State LA student leaders and the Cal State LA campus community in all program activities.

#### Program Themes

- Post-Secondary Education Awareness and Preparation
- Job and Career Exploration
- Group Project Participation and Project Development
- Personal Development Exploration

#### Activities

- Informational Presentations, Workshops, and Motivational Speaker Series - Live Zoom Sessions
- Related Independent Work Assignments
- Creative Digital Expression and Presentation- Virtual Vision Boards and Podcast Presentations
- Group Work- Entrepreneurship Project
- Group Support- Youth Mentoring and Scaffolding
- Reflection- Individual and Group

### **Student Employment and Leadership Program**

EPIC's work is student-led and fosters creative development and incorporation of student-initiated ideas. Student leaders are passionate about social justice and advocating for causes affecting communities of Los Angeles. Their work supports the mission and vision of EPIC, builds program capacity, and provides direct and indirect service in communities surrounding Cal State LA.

#### Program Capacity Building Positions- Infrastructure Positions

- America Reads and Counts Program Admin Assistant
- Community Partnerships Student Assistant
- Eagle Connect: Data Collection and Administration Assistant
- Eagle Connect: Outreach and User-end Support
- Digital Marketing Assistant
- Field Placement Student Assistant
- Graphic Designer
- I SERVE LA Coordinator
- Special Projects Student Coordinator

#### Direct Service Positions

- America Reads and Counts Program Tutor
- America Reads and Counts Program Site Coordinator

## EVENTS

### **Community Connections – Heritage Month Awareness**

To honor heritage and community serving organizations, EPIC is collaborating with community and campus partners to coordinate opportunities to serve community and celebrate heritage.

September: Latino Heritage

November: American Indian Heritage

February: African American Heritage

May: Asian Pacific American Heritage

June: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Heritage

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

Coordinated in conjunction with our Community Connections initiative. Cal State LA Gives Back is a day of service for 50 Cal State LA students. Cal State LA students serve at a partner organization sin fall and spring semester, two events per academic year.

November: American Indian Heritage Month. United American Indian Involvement, Inc.

May: Asian Pacific American Community

### **MLK Legacy –Undergraduate Essay Contest**

Call out to undergraduate students! Students invited to submit an essay on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for a chance to win a \$150 stipend. Five essays selected.

Reflection Prompt: Express your thoughts on the importance of community engagement and the difference it makes at Cal State LA. How does community engagement further the goals and ethos of the civil rights movement?

February: African American Heritage Month. Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. King. Coordinated in conjunction with Community Connections Initiative

### **Community Partner Organization Fair**

More than 20 community partner organization take part in our Community Partner Organization Fair. The fair is coordinated to provide create opportunities for Cal State LA students to network with community partner organizations, partners share information about their mission and programs, students can apply for community placement opportunities.

April: In-person or Virtual

### **Cal State LA, Here We Come**

Cal State LA, Here We Come is a college day visit for over 400 elementary school children from our America Reads and Counts partner elementary schools. An authentic college day experience provides children with “a day in the life of a college student” at Cal State LA. Cal State LA students, clubs and organizations, faculty and staff volunteer to help give the children a great day.

April: In-person event

## **OUTCOMES RELATED TO UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

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**

The marketing and outreach plan is coordinated by EPIC student leaders.

The working team strategically oversee:

- Social media
- Website and Eagle Connect
- Directory Data
- Graphics
- Creative Content Building
- Classroom, University & Community Presentations
- University Event Participation
- Campus Tabling Efforts
- Cross Promoting

## **PROGRAM EVALUATION and QUALITY CONTROL MECHANISMS**

- Program Area Working Teams
- Campus Collaborations
- Community Partnership Collaborations
- Feedback Surveys
- Participation Data
- Student Reflection: Student Stories and Impact Statements
- Follow Risk Management and General University Policies
- Internal Audits
- Participate in University CSU Strategic Planning Meetings for Community Engagement

**FUNDING REQUEST:** EPIC is requesting funding support in the amount of \$10,000.

**OTHER FUNDING:** EPIC applies for annual IRA funding.

**FINANCIAL PLAN 2021-2022**



## ASI REPORTING: FINANCIAL PLAN AND EXPENSE DETAIL

<b>Funding Request:</b>				
EPIC is requesting funding support in the amount of \$10,000. Funds will go to support community engagement program, service, and student employment.				
<b>FALL</b>				
<b>Community Engagement</b>				
Cal State LA Gives Back	\$1,982.13	Description: transportation, catering, misc materials (super a supplemental food purchase)		
<b>Student Employment</b>				
America Reads & Counts Program	\$1,904.76	Description: Studio Gear Program t-shirt order, program t-shirts for tutors to wear in the field/community		
<b>SPRING</b>				
<b>Community Engagement</b>				
Eagle Connect License Renwal	\$4,500.00	Description: product license renwal		
Cal State LA Gives Back	\$863.00	Description: transportation & misc materials		
Annual UAS Admin Fees	\$750.00			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,999.89</b>			

## CONTACTS

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CESPG: <https://www.calstatela.edu/engagement>