

Community Connections

"Instead of brush strokes, our portrait is drawn by series of actions, services and sacrifices that when revealed and reviewed as a whole give a good picture of who we are. .. As with any work of art, we in particular are still a work in progress."

-President Willie J. Hagan



**Center for Service Learning , Internships, &
Civic Engagement (SLICE)**

2015-2016



**California State University
DOMINGUEZ HILLS**



Community Engagement Symposium 2016



CSUDH Day of Service 2016



Pow Wow 2016



Earth Day 2016



Honoring the Indigenous People with CSUDH 6th Annual Pow Wow



Two generations of dancers. Headman dancer Julian Phoenix with his son at the CSUDH 6th Annual Pow Wow

CSUDH continues to honor and celebrate the indigenous people by hosting its sixth annual Pow Wow. For the last six years, the Pow Wow has served as a bridge for cross cultural learning and an avenue to honor the people. This year was no different as dancers and musicians across nations shared the blessed ground to dance, sing, and pray.

The Pow Wow has been called a gem of the university by many. It has allowed the community to come together and truly embrace and celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of the indigenous people.

Under the leadership of Cheryl McKnight, Steve Rosales, and Dr. Janine Gasco, each year the Pow Wow continues to grow without losing the authenticity of what a Pow Wow is and should be. Students from Dr. Gasco's anthropology class take the monumental tasks of organizing many aspects of the event. Steve Rosales and Cheryl McKnight make sure to engage and invite the native American community and the university.

More photos on page 5

Serving by Preserving *Thomas Philo, recipient of 2016 Faculty Service Award* *Article by: Andrea Lopez (ITEP intern)*

Tom Philo has been a part of the Dominguez Hills family for 11 years. He is known as a brilliant archivist but many do not know he is also a marathon runner. In my recent interview with Tom, I learned about the job of an archivist and his recent faculty award

for Excellence in Service.

Tom Philo enjoys helping students. He finds great satisfaction in seeing unsolved questions get answered through documents and records he helps preserve. *(continued on pg. 7)*



At your service....

We, the staff of SLICE, want our students to be engaged and passionate about community service. We try our best to model our own mission and vision for the university and the center. We also understand the importance of providing a safe home-like environment for students to explore, network, and learn. That is why it is our mission to serve our students and make the center a welcoming environment for students to get connected. When our students visit the Center for Service Learning, we want them to feel as welcomed as if they were entering Grandma's house.



Cheryl McKnight, Director

Educational Background: B.A. Anthropology, M.A. English

About me: Advocating for our students, community engagement, and the Native American Community is what I love to do the most. It makes me so proud to see how much our students care about their communities and to watch as the students grow confident with the knowledge they gain from their classes—and each other. Indeed, "America Happens Here!"

Sergio Pineda. Community Partner Coordinator

Education Background: B.S, B.A. Human Services, M.S. Counseling (2017)

About Me: I must have been around four years old when my grandma would take me around my village in Guatemala to visit the sick, and feed the hungry. She taught me from a young age that life is all about helping others. Some people call it service, but I call it life. Being a staff member at SLICE allows me the opportunity to work along the university's biggest strength, our students. Sure I've worn many hats at SLICE. However, the ones that I connect with more are the roles of a mentor, contributor, and team player. I believe that as social beings together we are stronger.



Xavier Pineda, Student Ambassador

Educational Background: B.S. Criminal Justice Administration, 2015; Masters in Public Administration (MPA), expected graduation, 2018

About me: I started working at SLICE in 2014 as an undergraduate senior, and it was the best decision I have made in my academic career. With the help and support of co-workers and our director, Cheryl McKnight, I applied to grad school and got accepted. Now, as I enter my second year of the MPA program, I am more confident, prepared, and enthusiastic.



Jessica Ramirez, Jumpstart Site Manager

Education Background: B.S. Child Development, M.A. Education

About Me: As a former student of Dominguez Hills, I witnessed the need to make our local communities a better and happier place to live for everyone. With Jumpstart, an AmeriCorps program housed in SLICE, I was able to serve my community for four years mentoring our young children of Compton. Now that I have received my education from this campus, I am very happy to still be a part of the Jumpstart family and of this amazing university. Working here and being able to contribute to the needs of our community with Jumpstart and other events is very rewarding. Coming to work is no struggle for me since I love seeing our students work really hard and spend their Friday nights and weekends preparing to mentor our young children; it helps me to keep going. I really enjoy working at SLICE because I get to see that there are people that care to share a piece of their heart and help someone else smile. I can now really say, "Once a Toro...Always a Toro!"



Miami Gelvezon Gatpandan, Coordinator

Education Background: B.S. Child Development, M.A. Education

About Me: The stories of students in this university are what inspire me. Coming from a large immigrant family, I can relate to many of the students that come here. Seeing how dedicated and passionate our students are in serving their communities makes me proud to be a Toro!

I believe in working hard but having fun and building great relationships along the journey!

"Two are better than one because they are rewarded for their labor. For if one falls, the other will lift up his companion."



Jennifer Partida

Major: Environmental Science

About me: I came into SLICE because I wasn't really involved with things most students do while attending school. I would come to class and go home. I never really socialized in or out of school, so being here has really helped with getting involved and meeting friends. I just know it's going to open the door to so many other opportunities.

Andrea Lopez

High School: Phineas Banning High School

Aspirations: Attend CSUDH and become a police officer

Andrea was our summer intern from the International Trade Education Programs, Inc. (ITEP). For six weeks, Andrea learned about the center and the university. Her work ethic and "go getter" attitude helped the center accomplish some important projects!

About me: I am a senior at Banning High School. I have been a part of the Harbor Youth Fire Academy and the Drill Team Squad for the last two years. I would like to become a police officer and help make my community a better place and help serve the people.

Her motivation: My mom motivates me because she was not able to finish school, and I know how hard it was for her to find a good job. Seeing her struggle motivates me to do my best to accomplish my goals. I want to make my mom proud and take advantage of every opportunity I get.



SLICE is always thankful to have student interns and volunteers. They are a big part of our team and their contributions to the center and to the university are priceless!

Serving by Preserving continued from page 3...

When asked what his favorite part of the job is, his response was, "Helping people find what they couldn't find elsewhere. Being able to help others with their research whether it was solving some unanswered questions or perhaps getting much more supporting evidence, that's what I enjoy doing."

During my interview with him, I found that Tom is passionate about making sure that the stories of thousands of individuals are being told as human experiences not as a paragraph in history. He wants others to see that history happens to individuals and that we must not see others as a block of people. Tom Philo said, "If you treat others with generosity they will carry that on..."

Service is really important to Tom. Tom Philo works closely with the Japanese-American community and also worked on the Japanese Garden rededication which is located here at CSUDH. Service to him means making a difference in the community. He said, "Service makes me feel more a part of CSUDH community because I think service is so much a part of things here."

I learned that we should always put some time and effort into being involved with the community. I also learned that history happens to individuals, but many people don't see that, and I have a better appreciation for the hard work archivists do.

More from the 6th Annual Pow Wow...



The Ripple

When Chancellor White visited Dominguez Hills last summer, he met some of Jumpstart's Corps members during training. After meeting each student and learning what Jumpstart does in the community, Chancellor White reminded the students that their service to the community and to one another are a reflection of how one act can and will create a ripple of positive change.

Since Service is our middle name, find out why by meeting some dedicated Toros who are creating their own ripple effect in their communities, in their classrooms, and in the world!



Breanna Haynes

Major: Liberal Studies with emphasis on Human Development

(May 2016)

Her story: On December 2015, Bree traveled to Thailand with her church members and an organization called Life Impact, a non-profit organization that provides families at risk of human trafficking with resources and services needed to prevent trafficking of children. In her visit to Thailand, Bree met and spent time with refugees. Bree learned and experienced the daily lives of families living in poverty stricken areas helping provide basic necessities such as food to children and families. From her trip, Bree took with her a new and transformed perspective of life.

Impact of community service in her life: My engagement in the community has influenced my life immensely. Working as a team in the community has shown me how much I actually like working with others. No matter what or where we come from, or who we are, human beings all share a common thread of interest and one thing is certain, together we can bring change, together we are impactful.

The most influential person in your life: God, my family, my church family, my Jumpstart family.

Her advice to the students: Don't give up! No matter how long it takes you to accomplish your goals, keep going! Persevere through the good and the bad times. You can do it. If possible, join an organization or club on campus, get involved, take advantage of all the resources on campus. Campus involvement will make your college experience one to remember! Jumpstart was the community on campus that was just for me, I believe there is a community within our campus just for you. Always step out of your comfort zone, do not let your fear hold you back.



Effect

Lidia Castillo

Major: Liberal Studies with Spanish option (May 2016)

Her story: Lidia Castillo is one of Jumpstart’s most dedicated Team Leaders. Her team members highlighted her great leadership and willingness to grow. As a result, Lidia’s team was among the top performers in the Jumpstart program.

Lidia recently received her degree in Liberal Studies and has moved to Indianapolis to pursue a career in teaching. Go Lidia!

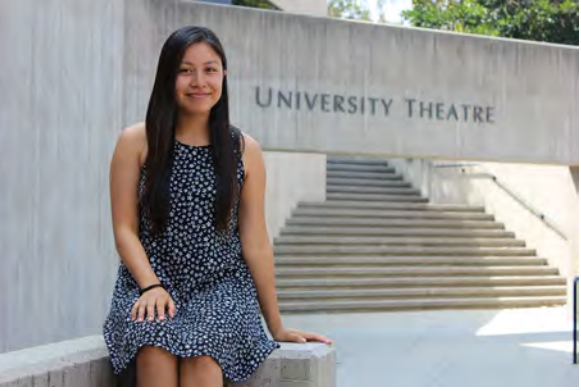
What are you most proud of: I am the first in my family to attend and graduate from a university. I am really proud of myself for accomplishing a lot of things in my college years. I am proud to know that I have served my community, impacted the lives of the children I mentored, and for graduating from CSUDH!

The most influential person in your life: My mother has inspired me from day one to continue with my education...

Her advice to the students: Be involved on campus and the community through various events like La Feria de Educacion and the Pow Wow.



Jessica Casillas



Major: Liberal Studies with Spanish option (May 2017)

Her story: Jessica Casillas is one of Jumpstart’s stellar Team Leaders. Unfortunately, she will not be continuing Jumpstart this academic year because Jessica has been accepted to the CSU International Program. On August 31, 2016, Jessica will be leaving to Jaen Spain to study Spanish and complete her minor. She will be attending Universidad de Jaen for a year.

When asked what she looks forward to studying abroad, Jessica wants to immerse herself to the culture. She also wants to learn more about the different educational systems.

Impact of community service in her life: Community service reassured my goal to be a teacher. Because of Jumpstart, I want to work in low income communities. Community service made me see how the small things we do can create a great impact. I am more thankful. I realized what I have is a gift and an opportunity to help others.

Her advice to students: Get involved on campus and in the community. Meet people and stay on track.

Favorite college memory: I like going to the SLICE office and seeing the chaos of students talking and finding food to eat!

The Ripple

Tori Correia



Major: Business Administration in Human Resources (Spring 2016) MSW (2018)

Minor: Computer Information Systems (Spring 2016)

Her story: Tori began her college journey at Dominguez Hills as a freshman. As she earned her degree this year, Tori has left an amazing legacy through her community service. During her five years, Tori became Justice Corps' representative and a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Phi Kappa Phi Honor Fraternity, Delta Mu Delta Business Honor Society, and NAACP. Earlier this year, Tori was awarded with the 2016 Inspirational Spirit Award at the 19th Annual Black History Celebration. Tori will be continuing her education at CSULA to pursue a Master's in Social Work.

Impact of community service in her life: Being engaged in the community helped me realized where my passion really is. Becoming more and more involved, I learned more about the community which I would like to serve as a long term career.

Her advice to students: Get engaged in the campus community and be involved!

Favorite college memory: My favorite college experience at Dominguez Hills was being actively involved in the campus community, being able to meet people whose goals are aligned with mine and making a difference in the surrounding community.

Vincent Richmond

Major: Theatre Arts (May 2017)

Vincent a.k.a. Vince a.k.a. Superman came to SLICE as he a team leader position in Jumpstart three years ago. Vince is known in the office for his great acting chops, his awesome techniques with the children, and his super strength!

His story: I've lived in San Diego all my life until I started at CSUDH. I come from a big wrestling background; my dad has been coaching high school wrestling and the California National Team since 1986. My older brother and sister wrestled, and now my sister is coaching girl's wrestling and my brother is transitioning into Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), and my mom is our biggest supporter. I, myself had been wrestling since 7th grade where I had been a Freestyle and Greco state placer. I have been on many national trips and was a California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) finalist my senior year. Wrestling has always been a big part of my life and my passion for it helped me discover my desire for theatre. I had always felt a rush by being in the spotlight and putting my talents on display.



Effect

Impact of community service in his life: Being involved in the community has not only helped me discover new things about others but also new things about myself. I had always known that I like to be helpful and support others, but I sometimes do not know how to with everyone, especially with people I do not know too well. When I started performing onstage I finally realized that I could interact with numerous people at one time by providing a story or even a character that they can comprehend or possibly even relate to personally. This is one of the main reasons that I really want to get into the acting field professionally, especially theatre. The connection I can have with an individual through my storytelling not only leaves me with a sense of warmth when I feel they are entertained but also when they can really feel the story and the character's emotions and depth."



Favorite college experience: My favorite college experience has to be being involved in Jumpstart and seeing the children so happy to see me and eager to learn. Seeing them engaged in what I was helping teach them always brought me so much joy.



The most influential person in your life: There have been many people who have helped me on my educational road. First, my family has always supported me and lent advice when I needed it. My theatre professors and each of my directors I have worked with have helped in various ways. My professors have taught me how to keep striving and improve my tools. Each show I have worked on gave me new directors and new skills to take forward and build myself into a better actor, student, and young man. All my friends and supporters at the SLICE office also helped me fully realize that my education isn't just going to benefit me but my entire community.

His advice to students: One word of advice I would give is to not be afraid to get involved and put yourself out there. Even if you don't think it goes along with the career path you want or simply have that fear or trying something unfamiliar give it a try anyway. The worst that could happen is it doesn't work out how you wanted but you would still have the experience under your belt and it will only help you out in the long run.

Quote: "Talent will get you in the door, character will keep you in the room"

The Ripple

Jennifer De Leon



Major : Liberal Studies with an option in Spanish

Her story: Jennifer is probably one of the most hands on students in the university. Jennifer was a Team Leader for Jumpstart for two years. Besides her commitment to Jumpstart, Jennifer was heavily involved in other organizations including Latino-America Estudiantil (OLE) and the Millennium Momentum Foundation. Jennifer has now graduated with her degree in Liberal studies and have successfully completed the credential program. What's next for Jennifer? She hopes to work as a teacher in a dual immersion Spanish classroom.

Impact of community service in her life: My engagement in the community has allowed me to realize that we make a great impact in the community we serve and the people around us when we take the time to collaborate with others toward a common goal that we are all passionate about. As a teacher, I want my students to understand the power they hold as contributing citizens in their community. I want them to know they can make the world a better place! I want to instill in my students the desire to help others, strengthen their communities, and provide an example for future generations.

Her advice to students: What makes me proud and glad I chose to attend CSUDH is the community involvement. I would encourage incoming students to join clubs, organizations, or participate in the occasional "Community Service" events because they do more than help others. It brings a community together, you get to know other people that may share your same interests, you build lifelong friendships, you set an example for others to follow, and most importantly, you contribute to making the world a better place.

Favorite college memory: I think representing Jumpstart in San Francisco was my favorite experience. I met people that do so much for their community. They are constantly making a difference in the communities they serve. I met people that are serving through building shelters and providing help to people in places that have suffered a natural disaster (Public safety), gather resources for families, schools, communities, etc., assisting domestically abused families (health care), educating underprivileged youth (education) , protecting and monitoring our natural resources (environmental protection) to name a few! This event wasn't at all what I expected. I had the opportunity to share what I did in Jumpstart and talk about the children we serve as well as the impact we make. As a future teacher, I learned about resources, programs, and laws that I can use when I have my own classroom.

Quote: "Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world." -Howard Zinn

Effect

Xavier Pineda

Major: Criminal Justice Administration (Spring 2016)

Master's in Public Administration (MPA) (Spring 2018)

His story: For someone who did not believe he could get into graduate school, Xavier is now earning straight As in his MPA classes! Xavier began as SLICE Student Ambassador in his last year of undergraduate studies. With mentorship from Cheryl and SLICE staff, Xavier applied for the MPA graduate program. It would be a journey of new beginnings. Xavier has participated in Student Research Day and help begin the Graduate Society of Public Administration (GSPA).

Impact of community service in his life: My community engagement has affected my aspirations and goals because with each experience, I gain knowledge and insight on real-life issues within our communities, at the same time learning how I could help and give back.

His advice to students: Get involved with clubs, organizations, and campus activities. The relationships and skills you build while participating will be as valuable as your education.

Quote: "Figure out what you love to do, then figure out how to get paid to do it." –Nick Offerman



Daniel Chambers

Major: Health Science– Health Care Management (Spring 2016)

His story: I came to CSUDH as a student who did fairly poorly academically and who thought that they wanted to become an occupational therapist. By the time I graduated, I had significantly improved my studying habits and had graduated as Summa Cum Laude. Currently, I am pursuing a Master's of Public Health in Management and Policy at San Diego State University. I am immensely thankful for the staff and faculty at California State University Dominguez Hills, in particular the staff at the Center for Service-Learning, Internships, & Civic Engagement. Without their support I do not believe that I would have been able to pursue the opportunities that have led to my current success.

Impact of community service in his life: Community service has greatly enhanced my education. I feel that my community service at American Indian Changing Spirits had allowed me to apply the skills that I had learned in my classes and had given me a better perspective of what it is like to work in healthcare. Additionally, my community service had also given me opportunity to learn about a community that I would not otherwise have.

Favorite College Memory: My favorite college memory was when we took the American Indian Changing Spirits residents to the California Science Center to see a IMAX movie and the space shuttle Endeavor. I think this particular memory stands out because I felt that I had finally been able to connect with the residents that I had been working to help for the past year, additionally I had felt that it was really humbling to finally understand the residents on a more personal level.



The Ripple

Suzette Mitchell



Major: Master's in Social Work (May 2018)

Background on your indigenous heritage and how that inspired you to work with Native Americans:

I am an enrolled member of the Goshute Tribe, who are actually a part of the Shoshoni Nation. Our tribe is located on a reservation in Ibapah, Utah that extends into Nevada. The word Goshute is derived from the Native word Kutsipiuti (Gutsipiuti), which means "Desert People." As highly efficient hunters and gatherers, we maintained the fragile balance of the desert, providing for our needs without destroying the limited resources of our land. We knew and used at least eighty-one species of vegetables. We harvested and cultivated seeds from many of these species. Although, we suffered historical trauma like many other American Indians, I can remember having fun chasing chickens, sleeping in a log cabin and eating venison, yum!

I had the privilege of knowing my great grandmother, grandmother, great aunt and other relatives whom I spent time with between visits to the reservation and Salt Lake City where I lived with my biracial, Black Indian mother and family. After the death of my grandmother, I decided to leave a legacy in her honor since she had been forced to go to a boarding school, among the tragedies and experiences she expressed in the PBS documentary "We Shall Remain," a history of the Goshute Indians. However, she held on to her language which allowed her to maintain cultural ties with the tribe. As a result, I made the decision to advocate for social justice in the lives of American Indians through culturally relevant education to preserve culture and build a pathway to learning. In addition, I helped to establish the first American Indian and Black Indian clubs at CSUDH as a means to engage, educate and inspire students.

Effect

About her current GED project: Pathways to Learning is an American Indian literacy and GED program, that I had the privilege of developing while interning at the American Indian Institute at CSUDH under the leadership of Director Cheryl McKnight. The program was a in response to a need for culturally relevant curriculum for American Indian men at the American Indian Changing Spirits recovery program, who among other American Indian populations, are at risk for dropping out of high school and thus hindered from moving on to higher education or professions.



Impact of community engagement in her aspirations and goals in life: After engaging the clients at Changing Spirits, I feel more empowered to continue and expand the program into a vocational education facility that will provide an opportunity for American Indians and other disenfranchised populations to secure professional licensing and subsequent employment.

Most influential person in her education: My earliest influence began in Salt Lake City Utah in the wake of the civil rights movement, when my 5th grade teacher, Mr. Manness, asked me to present an oral account of the African slave trade during our schools Black History week to the entire school. I drew a picture of the slaves arduous journey shackled on a slave ship from Africa to America. After seeing the heartfelt reaction of the students and their interest in my history, I felt compelled to teach from that moment on.

Favorite college experience: When I met Director Cheryl McKnight of the American Indian Institute at CSUDH, and she exclaimed "You're a Black Indian"! I thought, okay what does that mean? I soon realized that I had embarked on a journey that would lead to my own self- discovery and beyond.

Her advice to the students: Embrace the rich history and cultural diversity at CSUDH through active community engagement and service opportunities.

Social Justice Retreat

In this year's second annual Social Justice Retreat, the students were treated with snow and a lot of it! For a handful of them, this was the first time they have seen or been to the snow. In the next three days, students learned the power of a team and mastering their fears.



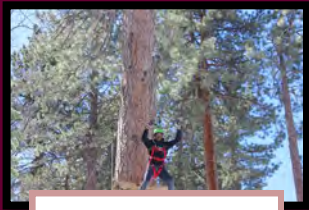
For the students who participated, the retreat to Big Bear is an alternative option to Spring Break. Over the next three days, students learned to work as a team, problem solve, and test their comfort zone through reflections, games, and high ropes activity. At the end of the retreat, a student wrote, "During this 3-day Social Justice Retreat, I accomplished a lot more than what I thought I was capable of - for that I am thoroughly proud and thankful for this experience. I got to connect with a lot of people who once were strangers. I must admit, at first my mentality for coming on this retreat was to get hours but over the last couple days I've gotten so much more than I thought or imagined I would get. I learned that my obstacles - which I like to keep very close to my chest - are feelings that are shared by many people. Being out in such an untouched natural place made the experience so much better, having to rely on each other for even remedial things from which lotion to use to advice about school. I made life long connections. I was profoundly terrified of the high ropes part of our schedule from my previous encounters with nature and heights, but through the encouraging words from my peers and Mogo (our daredevil leader), I learned that I really do have what it takes to succeed."



Losers do 20 push ups!



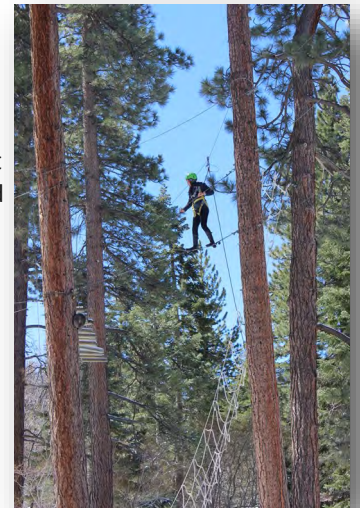
One steps at a time



Vince jumping on mid air!



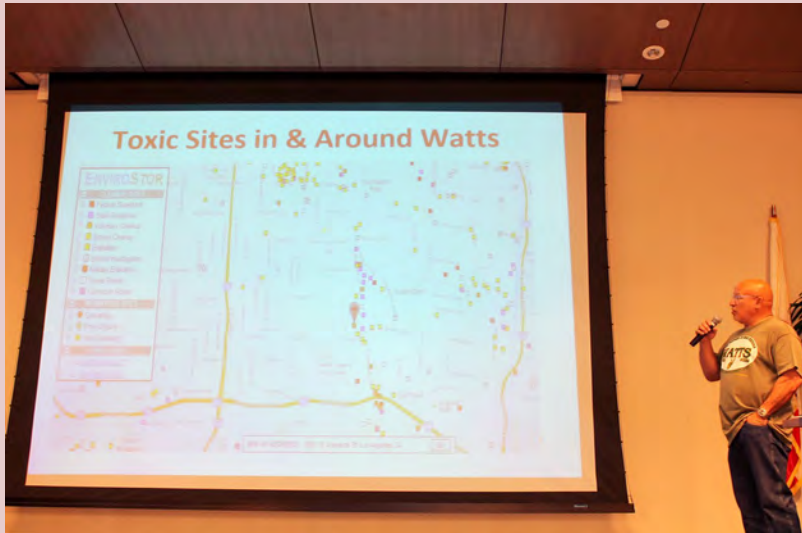
Alexis is so ready!



From 25 feet off the ground, Corps members mastered their fears through the support and cheers from their fellow peers.



SLICE Commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Watts Rebellion in Community Engagement Symposium



Tim Watkins spoke about current efforts to test toxic levels of lead in and around the Watts community.

California State University Dominguez Hills commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Watts Rebellion in its Third Annual Community Engagement Symposium. With over 50 community service project displays and guest speakers Tom Watkins, Dr. Vivian Price, Associate Professor Ellie Zenhari, Dr. Kirti Celly, and Dr. Sam Wiley, students and community members shared and learned about the diverse community engagement projects by Cal State Dominguez Hills.

This year's symposium highlighted community service in Watts and surrounding communities. It also aimed in increasing community awareness of the current efforts and research done in the Watts community.

Mr. Tom Watkins, president and CEO of Watts Labor Community Action Committee delivered a powerful presentation about testing toxic levels of lead in and around Watts. Dominguez Hills is working closely with Tom Watkins in the efforts to develop a lasting partnership to help overcome social justice disparities through research and community action.

Others that were honored for their work in the community included Brenda Riddick who was presented with the Outstanding Community Advocate Award. Vivian Price was awarded the Community Hero Award while the Court Observer Program, East Side Riders Bike Club, and the Carson Boys and Girls Club were presented Outstanding Community Partners Awards.

This year's symposium, just like the previous years, is to honor the meaningful work of CSUDH students to help empower, enlighten, improve, and strengthen their communities. The symposium is a small way to show how committed and dedicated our students in serving and building their communities. The honor truly belongs to our students.









We're making a difference.

**Center for Service Learning,
Internships & Civic
Engagement
(SLICE)**

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We support using high impact practices for student success including service learning, community-based learning, and internships as instructional strategies.