

UCSD Named to the President's New Higher Education Honor Roll for Community Service

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The University of California, San Diego has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, a program designed to recognize colleges and universities for their outstanding efforts to meet the needs of the communities that surround them and to reach out to the broader global community. This is the honor roll's inaugural year.

UCSD was recognized for five exemplary service projects and four initiatives in hurricane relief.

More than 500 colleges applied for honor roll recognition. Final selections were made by the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency geared to fostering volunteerism and service in America.

"Higher education is a powerful engine of civic engagement and is central to achieving the President's vision of active citizens and connected communities," said Stephen Goldsmith, chairman of the sponsoring corporation.

In addition to emphasizing the importance of service to the community, the honor roll was initiated to increase public awareness of the impact that college students have in service.

UCSD's exemplary service projects include:

Alternative Spring Breaks - UCSD organizations and colleges sponsored service trips to Costa Rica, Peru, Tanzania, Russia and the Gulf Region where students aided where needed. For example, in Russia, students mentored disadvantaged elementary students and made improvements to school facilities.

Teams in Engineering Service (TIES) - This is an innovative service and academic program in which multi-disciplinary teams of students use their combined technical and creative skills to design, build and deploy projects that solve technology-based problems for San Diego non-profit organizations.

Preuss School/Gompers Charter School (GMCS) Involvement Program - At these charter schools for underrepresented children, UCSD students tutor in all subjects and provide lunchtime activities that reinforce a college-going culture. They intern in counseling and nursing offices and directly interact with parents.

Public Service Minor - This minor is open to all UCSD students and encourages understanding of the history and practices of public service, the development of civic skills, and the practical application through participation in specific internships in public service through the campus Academic Internship Program.

American Pie: What's Under the Crust? - In these quarterly events, American and international students participate in community visits, service projects and dinner discussions on specific topics, such as religion or race, to gain a better understanding of American culture through hands-on helping and open talks.

UCSD's hurricane relief projects include:

Individual Student Efforts - Students participated in an innovative variety of ways: stitching commemorative hats and scarves to sell at a Muir holiday fair; a Sixth College festival featuring a "pie in the face" fundraiser; fundraising in the dining halls, and a fundraiser at the Hard Rock Café in downtown La Jolla.

Warren College Television (WCTV) Hurricane Help-a-thon - In a ten-hour telethon over the college closed circuit television that reaches 7,000 students, students solicited donations, including art work, baked goods, and parking permits on which students bid. Students also provided entertainment during the telethon.

Alternative Break for Katrina Relief - The student group CalPIRG organized two trips to New Orleans where students volunteered with the non-profit, Common Ground. They assisted at a medical center and a women's center, gutted homes, did grounds' work, served as kitchen crew, and took part in rallies.

UCSD Cares: Hurricane Katrina Relief - Help Us Help Our Neighbors - In this campus wide effort, the Alumni Association, Associated Students, Student Organizations & Leadership Opportunities (SOLO), the A.S. Volunteer Connection and UCSD Bookstore collected monetary and material donations. Backpacks, food, clothing, household items were donated to the Red Cross.

In addition to the Corporation for National and Community Service, the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is sponsored by the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. It is presented in cooperation with Campus Compact, a national coalition of nearly 1,000 college and university presidents.

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