UC San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox Launches Volunteer50: Chancellor's Call to Service at Scripps Beach Cleanup and Beautification Project

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UC San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox Launches Volunteer50: Chancellor's Call to Service at Scripps Beach Cleanup and Beautification Project Chancellor Marye Anne Fox launched the first group project for Volunteer50: Chancellor's Call to Service Saturday, Sept. 25 at Scripps Beach, a new initiative that encourages volunteerism and showcases the widespread and diverse contributions of the UC San Diego community.

Through the Volunteer50 initiative, Fox is challenging all students, faculty, staff, alumni and university friends to perform 50 hours of volunteer service during UC San Diego's 50th Anniversary celebration, from September 2010 through June 2011.

"Service is an important part of the UC San Diego and the University of California mission, and Volunteer50 is a key component of our 50th Anniversary celebration," said Fox. "This is a chance for the UC San Diego family to give back to our community - a community that has supported us for 50 years."

More than 100 UC San Diego students, faculty, staff and community volunteers took part in the inaugural Volunteer50 group project, which was held in conjunction with International and California Coastal Cleanup Day. Volunteers cleaned Scripps Beach and beautified the area, removing sand from public walkways and improving landscape near Scripps Pier.

"UC San Diego evolved from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, so it is fitting that we begin our Volunteer50 initiative here. And just as UC San Diego has reached out into the community over the last five decades, we know that Volunteer50 will have a positive impact on our community as well," Fox said. "I hope San Diegans will realize how much we care about our region and our world, and recognize the contributions our students, staff, faculty and alumni make, day in and day out, here in San Diego and beyond."

Volunteers are asked to log their service hours online by visiting 50th.ucsd.edu and clicking on Volunteer50. On the site, individuals can register for the program, learn about service opportunities, log donated hours, and track the cumulative hours of friends and colleagues.

"Our initial goal is to see how fast we can reach 50,000 cumulative hours, then we'll push higher from there," said Fox.

Each month, a service theme will be featured on the Volunteer50 website - such as environment, education, arts and social justice - and local partner organizations will be featured that fit the month's theme. Volunteers can perform their service at the partnering agencies, at any of the other organizations listed on the website or wherever else they choose.

"This is a way for everyone to be an active part of UC San Diego's 50th Anniversary celebration. Whether you live here or halfway around the world, you can participate in Volunteer50 and make a difference in your community," Fox said.

For more information about UC San Diego's 50th Anniversary and Volunteer50, visit 50th.ucsd.edu.

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