

California's Call to Service

The California State University Responds A Report From 2001/2002

OVERVIEW

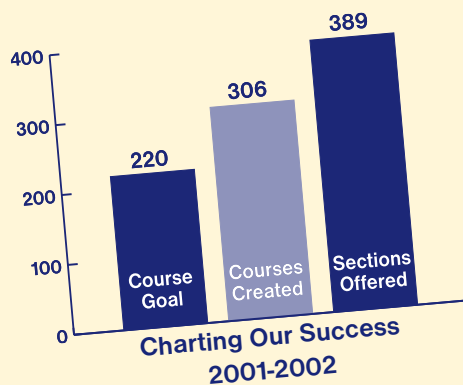
In April 1999, Governor Gray Davis called for a community service requirement for all students enrolled in California's public institutions of higher education. After months of intensive dialogue about ways to strengthen and build upon the service initiatives that have developed over decades, the California State University responded to Governor Davis's call. The CSU Board of Trustees passed a resolution in March 2000, calling on the chancellor and each CSU president to "ensure that all students have opportunities to participate in community service, service learning (deemed academically appropriate by faculty), or both."

In response to the CSU's commitment, Governor Davis authorized \$2.2 million in the fiscal year 2001/2002 state budget to support the development of new service-learning courses and to create or expand service-learning offices on all of the CSU campuses. The CSU committed to develop 220 courses with new service-learning components and to match the state funds with at least \$2 million from other sources. A report on these efforts during the 2001/2002 academic year follows.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

During the 2001/2002 academic year, **306 courses** with new service-learning components were developed. This outcome exceeded the CSU's commitment to create 220 courses by 39 percent. Many of the service-learning courses that were created offer more than one section, and therefore, it is estimated that over **389 sections** that include a service-learning component are now offered. As a result, there are new opportunities for more than **10,600 students** to experience service learning.

The development of courses with new service-learning components occurred in disciplines as varied as: nursing, computer science, public policy, journalism, architecture, biology, economics, English, music and teacher education. Opportunities were provided within general education and academic majors.



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

CSU campuses continue to strengthen and develop infrastructure that supports the development and implementation of service learning. Over the 2001/2002 year, campuses built their infrastructure in strategic and innovative ways:

- Campuses provided assigned time for faculty experienced in service learning to serve as mentors for faculty who are new to service learning.
- Campuses created staff positions that focus on partnership development to provide support to the community-based organizations that offer placements for CSU students.
- Campuses developed opportunities for students to work as service-learning student leaders who assist faculty in coordinating the logistics of service learning and in facilitating reflection sessions.

In an effort to maximize the investment made by the state, the CSU has actively pursued external sources for service-learning curriculum and infrastructure development. Across the system, **\$2.2 million** was secured from external sources in 2001/2002 to support service-learning initiatives.

OVERALL IMPACT: 2000-2002

Baseline data from 1999-2000 demonstrated that 28,800 students participated in service-learning opportunities. As a result of the curriculum development that has taken place since 2000/2001, there are now over **23,100 new opportunities** for students to participate in service learning, resulting in an **80 percent increase** in the number of students projected to enroll in courses with service-learning components since the CSU first committed to expanding service-learning opportunities in 2000.