Second Annual Internship Program Begins the Spring Semester

On January 9th, the Institute for Community-Based Teaching and Learning (ICBTL), a program of the Center for Civic Engagement, welcomed fifteen students and twelve organizational representatives to its Second Annual ICBTL Intern Luncheon. The luncheon introduced student-interns to the respective institutions they will be working with over the course of the following seven months. Student-interns had an opportunity to introduce themselves, their personal interests, education, and reasons for choosing to become involved with community-based organizations.

At the luncheon, ICBTL Director Ms. Carla Cardoza spoke about the history of the internship program, the history of the Institute, and the policies and procedures student-interns must adhere to throughout their internship. Ms. Cardoza and Dr. Kathleen Staudt, Director of the Center for Civic Engagement, also held a mini-workshop on cross-cultural differences and adjustment. The event was moderated by Mr. Miguel Rivera, Research Coordinator for the ICBTL.

Mr. Rivera headed the committee that decided which organization would receive student-interns and which students would receive internships. Over twenty-five students applied for the fifteen internship positions and over forty organizations applied to have student-interns work with them. The decisions were made based on the qualifications of the student applicants, their personal and academic interests, and essays specifying their concern for civic engagement. The committee simultaneously evaluated quality of the organizations’ requests for interns and how those requests matched up with the student applicants in the committee’s pool.

Ms. Cardoza stated that “while the committee had some very difficult decisions to make, I think most of us feel that we made the right decisions. We had some wonderful applicants, both in terms of students and organizations. I only hope we can continue to receive this kind of pool in years to come.”
The student interns will be working on a part-time basis and will earn a monthly stipend through the ICBTL for their contributions to the organizations. They will also be earning course credit at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) for the completion of academic requirements while participating in independent study and internship courses which are requirements to participate in the program. UTEP professors have agreed to assist in overseeing the work of these students throughout the internship.

The following students will be working with the following organizations until mid-August:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Major/Program</th>
<th>Organization/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yvonne Aragon</td>
<td>Bilingual Education</td>
<td>Employment Opportunity Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariel Delgado</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>Employment Opportunity Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azuri González</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>El Paso Collaborative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azhavee Grajeda</td>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>Family Service of El Paso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Heimer</td>
<td>Bilingual Education</td>
<td>El Paso Public Library – Armijo Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriela Montoya</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Ysleta Community Outreach Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monique Ortiz</td>
<td>Political Science/ Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Casa del Niño y del Anciano de México</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yvette Ortiz</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Sexual Trauma and Assault Response Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus Peña</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>YMCA de Juarez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonya Saunders</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>La Posada Home, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Sotelo</td>
<td>Latin American Studies</td>
<td>La Mujer Obrera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Luis Tejeda</td>
<td>CIS</td>
<td>Employment Opportunity Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Thomas</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Humane Society of El Paso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Thomas</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>Candlelighters of the El Paso Area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* two-thirds of the students’ stipend are sponsored by Employment Opportunity Services.

**Mexican Consulate Recognizes Student Involvement**

On January 3, 2002, UTEP student instructors from the Mexican Consulate program were recognized with certificates of appreciation from the Mexican Consulate for their hard work and dedication to the success of the program. UTEP president, Dr. Diana Natalicio, was on-hand to present the certificates and offer words of encouragement to the students.

The Mexican Consulate program at UTEP which works in collaboration with INEA (National Institute for Adult Education) is a program, under the direction of the Mexican Secretary for Public Education (SEP) and the Foreign Ministry Service (SRE), whose primary mission is to help...
those populations that did not have the opportunity to complete their primary or secondary levels of education in their own language. The Mexican Consulate program provides Mexican citizens 15 years of age and older with the opportunity to learn basic literacy skills or complete the elementary or middle school phases of education. Registration for the program is continuous and the courses of study are self-paced. When students complete a curriculum of studies, they are given official exams for each grade level and upon successful completion; they are certified by the SEP to have completed the studies for a specific grade level.

Since February of 2000, the Institute for Community-Based Teaching and Learning has worked in conjunction with the Mexican General Consulate in El Paso to organize INEA study groups directed by the UTEP instructors. UTEP volunteers direct the progress of the study groups and provide educational and tutoring services to participants. During the ceremony, each instructor was asked about their respective fields of study and the driving force behind their interest in the program. Students talked about their involvement as education majors or feeling the need to participate in the community with a worthwhile cause.

If you would like more information about participating in the Mexican Consulate program as a volunteer instructor or person participating in the program, you may contact Elsa Ontiveros at the Community Partnerships offices at 747-5064.

Congratulations to these students for their commendable efforts:

Sergio Carrasco
Sergio Barrios
Miguel A. Rosales
Mariela Díaz
Magali Chávez
Lizeth Urbina
Gabriela Montoya
Erika González
Elsa Ontiveros
Elizabeth Juliana
Tress Arrieta
Federico Villegas
Nora González
Francisco Pérez
Claudia García
Ana Mendoza
Humberto Escalante
Monica Jaloma
Víctor Sánchez
Ivette Espino
Maritza García Tinoco

Student receiving award from Dr. Natalicio
OnRamp Youth Foundation Extends Invitation for Tours

The Center for Civic Engagement is pleased to take the opportunity to announce that the OnRamp Youth Foundation has extended an invitation to the public to tour the Challenge Juvenile Boot Camp facility. The foundation has made arrangements to provide two one and a half hour tours of the facility. The event will take place on Saturday, March 23, 2002.

The tours have been arranged as part of an ongoing commitment on the part of the OnRamp Youth Foundation to raise public awareness of juvenile rehabilitation issues and counseling resources in the El Paso area. As space is limited, if you are interested in being part of the group touring the Challenge facility, you must confirm all reservations for the tour by Friday March 15, 2002.

You may reserve a space for yourself and another colleague on the OnRamp Youth Foundation website, http://onrampelpaso.stormpages.com or contact Community Partnerships at 747-7969.

Foundation Center Grant Library

The Institute for Community-Based Teaching and Learning: Community Partnerships is pleased to announce that its grant application and solicitation for acceptance into Foundation Center’s Cooperating Collections Network was approved on December 10, 2001. With the assistance and support of the UTEP library, Community Partnerships will be able to provide information on grant research, writing, and materials preparation to the public in the El Paso, Las Cruces, and Juarez community. Founded in 1956, the Foundation Center is the nation's leading authority on institutional philanthropy and is dedicated to serving grant-seekers, grant-makers, researchers, policymakers, the media, and the general public. The Center’s mission is to support and improve institutional philanthropy by promoting public understanding of the field and helping grant-seekers succeed. In order to achieve their mission the Center seeks the following:

• Collect, organize, and communicate information on U.S. philanthropy.
• Conduct and facilitate research on trends in the field.
• Provide education and training on the grant-seeking process.
• Ensure public access to information and services through its World Wide Web site, print and electronic publications, five library/learning centers, and a national network of cooperating collections.

Community Partnerships, a program of the Center for Civic Engagement, will sponsor a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Cooperating Collection facility during the Nonprofit conference scheduled for mid-March (see page 7 for more information on the conference). For further information contact Community Partnerships at (915) 747-7969 or visit our website: http://www.utep.edu/cce
Ranchland Middle School Students To Perform Play

Great news for theatre enthusiasts! The students from Ranchland Middle School, under the direction of Javier Robles and Horacio Ortega, will soon be performing their rendition of the play Promenade by Josh Adell. The students are participants in the Art Education Project, which utilizes activities in the Fine Arts to engage students in positive decision making and problem solving processes. At press time, the date, time, and location were tentative and pending confirmation.

Promenade is a fairytale story about a young girl who disguises herself, with the help of a theatre arts teacher, to woo the young man she is attracted to. It is a humorous tale of friendship and

For more information, contact Javier Robles at 857-0789 or the offices of Community Partnership at (915) 747-7969.

Letter from the Editor:

In planning for the future, one must take stock of the accomplishments from the past. The Institute for Community-Based Teaching & Learning: Community Partnerships has entered into its fourth year and final year of partnership with its funding organization, the Kellogg Foundation. During this time, it and all of its supporting programs have had a great many accomplishments. Community Partnerships has sponsored many successful programs and events such as the Spring Internships, Nonprofit Requests for Assistance Partnerships, Citizen Bee, and has hosted the Nonprofit Conference. The Mexican Consulate, SHINE, and Healthy Communities have all done their parts in educating the community in matters of civics, education, and health related matters.

All of us at Community Partnerships feel that students who have participated in our programs have taken something more from the experience than just the opportunity to apply our academic skills. As a former participant in the intern program, I can honestly say that I have come to appreciate my community more and understand that involvement at the most basic level is the key to building a good foundation and strengthening its internal structure. I hope that I can speak for all students who have participated in our programs when I say that our center, with its honorable mission to assist in fostering partnerships between the university and the surrounding community, is and should become a more permanent fixture in the region. Community Partnerships will now be looking to extend its reach beyond what it has been able to do in the past.
Community Partnerships and its programs will be looking at institutionalizing themselves within the UTEP system and becoming more involved with the community. As partnerships and networking continue to expand, as more students become involved in different programs and the reputation of the Institute and other programs become known for the quality of work provided and the demonstration of true concern for the community it serves, our future looks bright indeed.

Jaime Chavez Editor

Women, Power, and Politics Conference
On November 29th, the University of Texas at El Paso held the Women, Power, and Politics Conference. The conference was a forum for students to present their research on contemporary women’s issues. The venue provided students an opportunity to present research findings that would enhance their academic learning and give insight into the complexities of women’s issues today. There were five distinct sets of issues where groups of students were given the opportunity to present on a variety of topics including:

- Women, Health, & Education
- Women in Politics and Power
- Women’s Contemporary Issues
- Women as Workers
- Women: Violence, Spirit & Education.

Guest speaker was Judith Espinoza, director of the ATR institute, a transportation research institute at the University of New Mexico. The work of the Alliance for Transportation Research Institute has a single goal of creating realistic, workable solutions in transportation that address current needs while anticipating future demand. The Institute develops strategies with a constant eye to practicality. Its work ranges from applied to conceptual knowledge developed for a very real world.

The conference was generously sponsored and supported by the following contributors: Department of Political Science, Women’s Studies, Institute For Community Based Teaching & Learning, Center For Inter-American and Border Studies and the Institute For Policy and Economic Development.

High School Students to Compete in Civics Competition

The Center for Civic Engagement will hold the 13th annual Citizen Bee competition. The Citizen Bee is a contest among local high school students, testing their knowledge in the areas of Geography, American History, United States Government, Economics, and current events. The competition will take place on Saturday, March 9, 2002, from 10 a.m.–2:00p.m at UTEP’s Neil
Auditorium.

The following schools are scheduled to participate in this year’s El Paso Citizen Bee:

- Americas H.S.
- Andress H.S.
- Burges H.S.
- Cathedral H.S.
- Chapin H.S.
- Immanuel Baptist Church
- Jesus Chapel
- Loretto Academy
- Montwood H.S.
- Mountain View H.S
- Parkland H.S.
- Silva Magnet
- Ysleta H.S.

Each competing school enters a team of students, who compete as individuals. The students will test their knowledge in a formatted competition comprised of written and oral exams. The contestants take a 30-minute written exam of 65 questions and then they compete in an oral "bee" of four rounds of questioning. The total scores from both the written and oral exams determine the winners and are verified by a panel of UTEP and EPCC History, Economics, and Political Science Professors. Winning students will be awarded scholarships ranging from $300 for 1st place to $25 for 5th place. The top five winners will travel to Dallas, TX, for the State Citizen Bee on May 4th.

For more information on the Citizen Bee Competition, please contact the Community Partnerships office at 747-7969, or email us at commpart@utep.edu or at cce@utep.edu.

In the News…

Frances Moore Lappé To Speak
Second Annual Nonprofit Organization & Capacity Building Conference

Renowned author Frances Moore Lappé has scheduled a stop in: El Paso on April 8, 2002, at noon, in the Neill Auditorium as part of a tour to promote her newest book, Hope’s Edge. Lappé is author of many books about democracy and public life including: The Quickening of America. Rebuilding Our Nation, Remaking Our Lives and the popular Diet For a Small Planet. In addition, Lappé’s eleven books have been translated into 22 languages and used in over 50 countries.

She is co-founder of the Center for Living Democracy, a national organization for catalyzing the transformation of democracy from a set of formal institutions to a rewarding, practical, everyday approach to solving society’s problems.

For further information call the Community Partnerships office at 747-7969.