

CSUMB Wins President's Honor Roll Award for Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service named California State University, Monterey Bay to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement. Honorees were chosen based on factors such as the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses. CSUMB received the top honor, the President's Award, in the Honor Roll's inaugural year, and has been recognized "with distinction" in each of the three subsequent years.

CSUMB is the only higher education institution in California and one of only five public universities in the country that requires students to take Service Learning courses. All CSUMB students take a lower division general education class and an upper division course in their major. Last academic year, more than 1,700 students were enrolled in service learning classes, contributing more than 58,000 hours in community service to more than 400 schools, nonprofit organizations and government agencies in the tri-county area. That equals an investment of \$1.1 million in local schools and nonprofits.

The Honor Roll is a program of the corporation in collaboration with the departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education.

Six schools received Presidential Awards. In addition, 115 were named to the Honor Roll with Distinction and 621 schools were named Honor Roll members.

The service learning program has been recognized by the editors of U.S. News & World Report in the magazine's annual edition of America's Best Colleges.

The magazine names "academic programs to look for," which it defines as "outstanding examples of academic programs that are linked to student success." CSUMB's service learning program is listed among the top programs in the country – and is one of only nine public schools included in the most recent ranking. The university has been honored in this category for six straight years.

CSUMB Commencement Set for May 22

Sylvia Panetta keynote speaker

Sylvia Panetta will give the keynote address at California State University, Monterey Bay's 14th annual commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 22.

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at Freeman Stadium on Gen. Jim Moore Boulevard. CSU Monterey Bay President Dianne Harrison will confer degrees on approximately 800 students; another 100 will receive teaching credentials.

"We are delighted and honored that Sylvia Panetta has agreed to speak at Commencement, our university's most important event of the year," Dr. Harrison said. "She is widely respected, and rightfully so, for her outstanding record of leadership, her tireless dedication and her commitment to education."

Mrs. Panetta is chair of the Board of Directors and director of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy. The institute works to attract young people to lives of public service, helping them expand their knowledge of the policy process and develop their skills as future leaders. It sponsors Congressional internship and leadership programs for college students and coordinates the Monterey County Reads program.

From 1977 to 1993, she administered five district offices in the 16th Congressional District as a volunteer

for her husband, Leon Panetta, who represented that area for 16 years. She directed each of his re-election campaigns from 1980 to 1992.

She actively supports the Sylvia Panetta Scholarship Fund at Monterey Peninsula College; is a past board member of the National Steinbeck Center and the Community Foundation for Monterey County; was the founding executive director of the Foundation to Support the Monterey Peninsula Unified school district; and has served as honorary chair for numerous Central Coast fundraising campaigns.

This year she received the Outstanding Community Service Award from her alma mater, St. Vincent de Paul High School in Petaluma, and the Monterey County Business Council's Economic Vitality Award for Education.

Mrs. Panetta earned a nursing degree from St. Joseph's College in San Francisco and studied humanities at Dominican College of California, Monterey Peninsula College and Sonoma State University. A native of San Francisco, she lives in Carmel Valley with her husband. They have three sons and five grandchildren.

For more information on commencement, visit the web at csumb.edu/grad.



Over \$1 Billion Spent by 15 Special Interest Groups on Political Campaigns and Lobbying Efforts

Today the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), the state's political watchdog agency, released a new report detailing how 15 wealthy special interests spent more than \$1 billion throughout the last ten years in an attempt to shape public policy by influencing California's voters and public officials.

The report, "Big Money Talks," details the staggering amounts of money these interest groups spent on candidates, ballot measures and lobbying efforts, since electronic filing went into effect in 2000. Included in this list are six corporations, three Indian tribes, two labor unions and four business associations.

"This tsunami of special interest spending drowns out the voices of average

voters, and intimidates political opponents and elected officials alike," said FPPC Chairman Ross Johnson.

These five interests are responsible for over half of the \$1 billion spent by the top 15:

California Teachers Association – \$211,849,298

California State Council of Service Employees – \$107,467,272

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America – \$104,912,997

Morongo Band of Mission Indians – \$83,600,438

Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians – \$69,298,909

"The message from spe-

cial interests is unmistakable—that they're willing to spend millions of dollars to protect their narrow interests," Johnson continued. "The spending also serves as a warning to officeholders: 'Don't forget, we can use our money to help or hurt you. Think about it.'"

The complete report is available on the Commission's website and the list follows.

The Top 15 That Spent \$1 Billion to Influence California Voters and Public Officials

1) California Teachers Association \$ 211,849,298

2) California State Council of Service Employees \$ 107,467,272

3) Pharmaceutical Research and Manufactur-

ers of America \$ 104,912,997

4) Morongo Band of Mission Indians \$ 83,600,438

5) Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians \$ 69,298,909

6) Pacific Gas & Electric Company \$ 69,240,759

7) Chevron Corporation \$ 66,257,132

8) AT&T Inc. \$ 59,619,677

9) Philip Morris USA Inc. \$ 50,756,360

10) Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians \$ 49,078,448

11) Southern California Edison \$ 43,412,031

12) California Hospital Association \$ 43,281,456

13) California Chamber of Commerce \$ 39,065,861

14) Western States Petroleum Association \$ 35,214,325

15) Aera Energy LLC \$ 34,671,163
Total of Top 15 \$ 1,067,726,126

The Next Ten

16) California Association of Realtors \$ 33,329,943

17) California Correctional Peace Officers Association \$ 32,452,083

18) California School Employees Association \$ 31,861,749

19) San Manuel Band of Mission Indians \$ 29,747,811

20) Reynolds American \$ 29,213,942

21) Pala Band of Mission Indians \$ 24,021,356

22) United Auburn Indian Community \$ 24,019,877

23) California Medical Association \$ 23,064,218

24) Anthem Blue Cross \$ 21,993,466

25) Consumer Attorneys of California \$ 21,294,921

Total of Next 10 \$ 270,999,366

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL 25 \$ 1,338,725,492

FEATURE FARMER OF THE MONTH Universal Organics

HISTORY: If you've been to the Marina Farmers market lately, you may have noticed a new vendor, Universal Organics. Owner Jose Nunez is a recent ALBA graduate, having gone through their 6-month training program in 2008. Jose plans on bringing more variety to the market in months to come and will be selling items like watermelon, arugula, fiddlehead ferns, watercress, and fresh herbs ranging from lemon verbena to sage and thyme. **PRODUCE/PRODUCTS:** Broccoli, beets, sugar snap peas, carrots, radish, red and yellow potatoes, squash blossoms. **LOCATION AND SIZE:** Watsonville, CA, 4 acres. **PEOPLE:** Jose and one employee work on the fields but his wife, Guadalupe, and sister, Lilia Arellano, help at the markets. **FARMING PHILOSOPHY:** Jose believes in ALBA's philosophy of promoting and teaching organic farming practices because it is better for your health.

