

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

*July, 2016*



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# SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT OF THE MONTH: Dr. Mario Giraldo's GEOG 630B Class & CSUN PPM



The service learning program here at CSUN continues to grow every year. Each semester, students and faculty members are finding new and innovative ways to help better our community. In fact, during the spring semester Dr. Mario Giraldo and his GEOG 630B students identi-

fied and addressed a newly developing niche on our campus, tree life.

In February 2015 the Tree Campus USA program recognized CSUN as an official Tree Campus. As part of this program, which helps colleges and universities around the

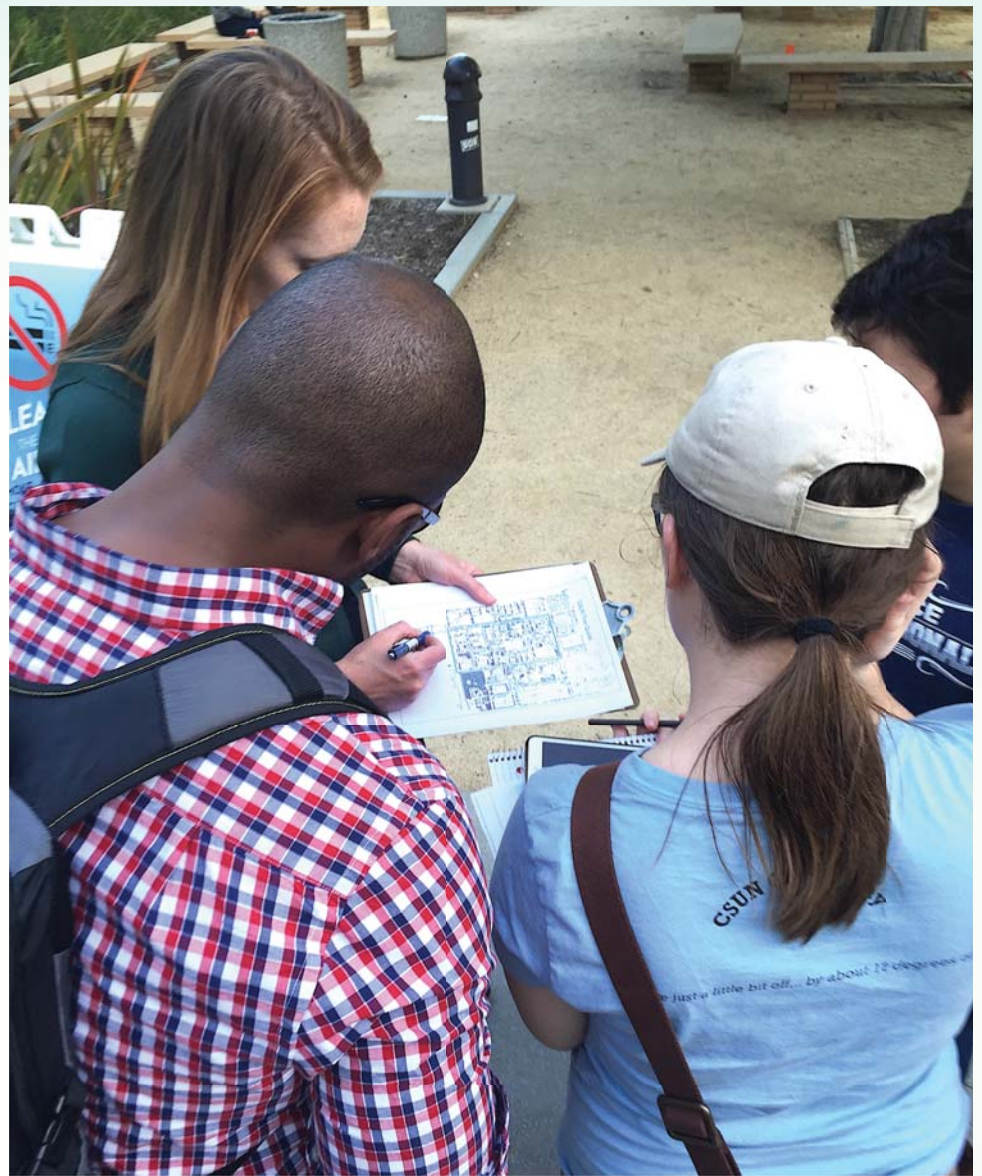
country establish and sustain healthy community forests, CSUN has a newfound responsibility to monitor and care for our trees. So, in order to help support our campus in achieving this goal, Dr. Giraldo and his students developed and implemented a Geographic Informa-



tion System (GIS) which tracks and identifies the trees here at CSUN.

As part of this service learning project Dr. Giraldo, a Geography professor and CSUN Tree Advisory Committee member, and his GEOG 630B students partnered with CSUN's Physical Plant Management (PPM) Department. This partnership allowed students to use the sampling techniques learned in GEOG 630B to help update and map our campus's tree inventory; which includes approximately 4,000 trees from over 200 different species. By creating this inventory, the service learning project has allowed PPM to make more informed decisions regarding CSUN's tree life and has helped our campus uphold its commitment to the Tree Campus USA standards. This project also gave students an opportunity to experience real-world applications of GIS technology and gain a better understanding of how this technology can benefit urban communities.

In addition to providing hands on experience, this project allowed GEOG 630B students to observe the overall health of our campus trees and the efficiency of the current tree tagging system. Based on the data collected, Dr. Giraldo's class was able to determine that the previous identification tags used to mark our campus trees were actually causing harm. For example, as the trees grew, many of the metal tags nailed to the tree



trunks became imbedded within the bark. Similarly, students found that the serial numbers on the tags were being damaged by campus wildlife and that many were no longer readable. After identifying these issues, the students worked alongside PPM and proposed more efficient methods of tagging the trees.

According to James Logsdon, the Assistant Director of Grounds and member of the Campus Tree Advisory Committee, the GEOG 630B

students' work "on updating ... [the] existing GIS map of the trees here at CSUN ...[was] nothing short of fantastic". The GIS system helped to make a crucial difference in PPM's ability to care for the trees. As Logsdon also noted "tracking the location of our trees gives ...[PPM] reference points when identifying species, canopy, age, planting date, and several other points of information needed to properly maintain our urban forest." In this way, the service learning project has had a large impact on the



sustainability of our campus's extensive tree population.

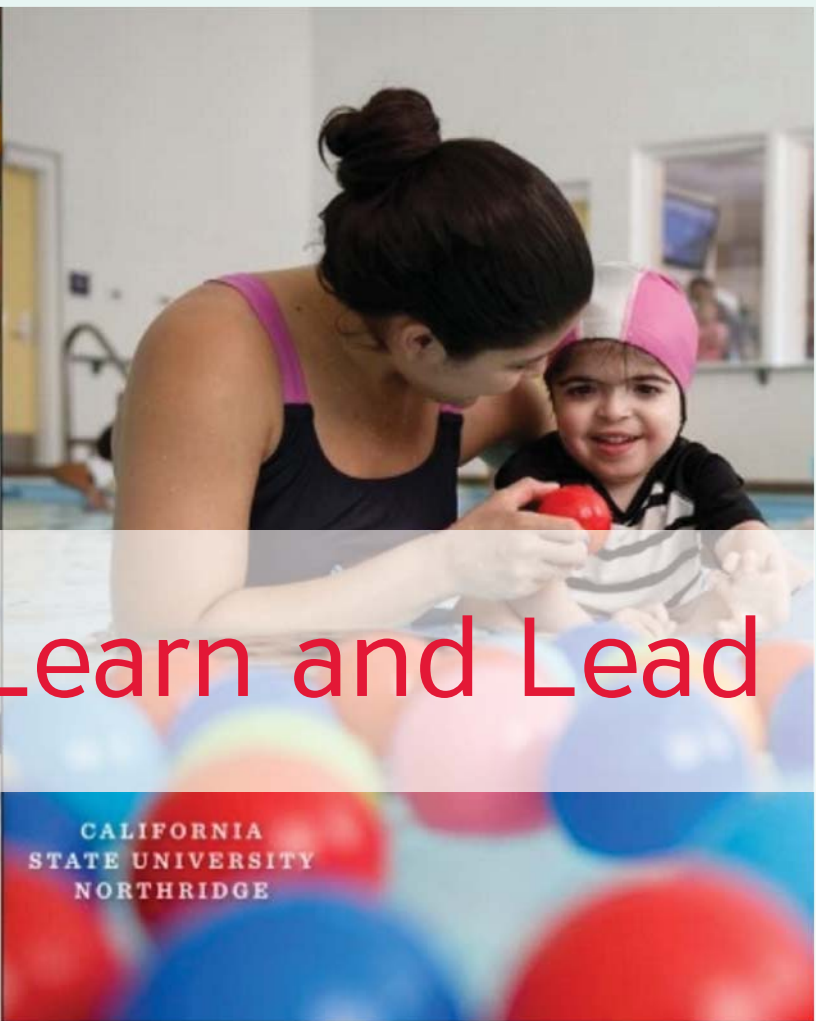
Furthermore, the implementation of this service learning project, has helped to improve our campus overall. As noted by Dr. Giraldo, the trees at CSUN have many beneficial impacts: they "provide a canopy that keeps campus shaded and cool, protects areas and buildings from strong winds, and makes our outdoors an enjoyable and beautiful part of campus". In addition, "the campus tree communities are evolving to become a refuge for birds, insects and other animals, an island of biodiversity and green within a heavily urbanized city" (Giraldo). In this way, Dr. Giraldo and his students have helped to not only sustain the diverse tree population on our campus, but to give back to all of the members of our CSUN community.

"The students' work on updating our existing GIS map of the trees here at CSUN is nothing short of fantastic! Their contribution has opened my staff up for other project work and allowed these students to get a feel for the real-world application of the technology and how it can benefit our urban communities. Knowledge is truly powerful!"

-James Logsdon  
Assistant Director, Grounds & Events







# Let Matadors Learn and Lead

CSUN President Dianne Harrison submitted a Community Engagement project to the Aspen Ideas Festival 2, which was selected as one of the top five finalists! This festival, presented by the Aspen Institute in partnership with The Atlantic magazine, is the nation's premier public gathering place for leaders from around the globe. During this festival, presenters discuss ideas and issues that both shape our lives and challenge our times.

As a presenter at the Aspen Ideas Festival, President Harrison chose to submit the Let Matadors Learn and Lead project to be considered for the Booz Allen Award. Let Matadors Learn and Lead, a project developed in collaboration with The Office of Community Engagement, will provide financial support for CSUN students who otherwise could not afford to participate in significant internships for local nonprofit organizations. By providing this funding, the project will allow CSUN students to take part in internships that help make academic coursework come alive. Opportunities such as these are critical for leveling the playing field among first generation and traditional college students.

As a finalist for the Booz Allen Awards, President Harrison is required to attract support through crowdfunding. This means that the project's success depends on the support of our community.

If you would like to help show your support for our deserving Matadors please visit:  
<https://www.generosity.com/educ.../let-matadors-learn-and-lead>

## What's Happening in the Community

Here are a few events that our Community Partners are hosting this month.

July 13 Movie Night and Volunteer Orientation  
7-9 p.m.

North Hollywood, CA

<https://foodforward.org/events/signup-form/?id=5848>



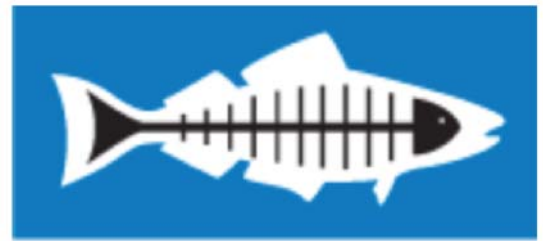
Join Food Forward for a night of food shorts and a volunteer orientation at their Fruitcave in North Hollywood! From 7 - 8 pm, they'll be presenting the many ways you can get involved with Food Forward. From 8 - 9 pm, they'll be showing a collection of shorts from Real Food Films.

July 27 MPA Watch Training  
6-8 p.m.

Heal the Bay's Main Office

1444 9th St.

Santa Monica, CA 90401



Heal the Bay

<http://www.healthebay.org/event/mpa-watch-training-summer-2016>

Become a Heal the Bay volunteer by attending this 2-part training program to become a Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Watch Volunteer. Volunteers will be trained on how to collect data while walking along the most beautiful beaches of Malibu and Palos Verdes. Monitoring done by MPA Watchees helps encourage enforcement and regulation around MPAs.

July 18 Diabetes Meal Planning for Adults  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Simi Valley

<https://www.clinicas.org/outreach/events-list>



Clinicas is hosting a Diabetes Meal Planning for families. Please call (805) 647-6353 to register