

2000

Eastside Project Mission Statement

The Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Center for Community-Based Learning

EASTSIDE PROJECT MISSION STATEMENT

The Eastside Project at Santa Clara University educates students, and the university as a whole, in the realities of the lives of the marginalized and the poor. Eastside Project creates partnerships for active engagement, service, and research, serving as a catalyst for a unique collaboration between scholars and community members. By providing students and faculty members opportunities for real-life, community-based learning experience both at home and abroad, Eastside Project seeks to advance the Jesuit tradition of the service of faith and the promotion of justice, uniting and transforming both university and community in a common effort to respond compassionately and self-critically to those most in need.

The Eastside Project reflects the values set forth in the 2000 Strategic Plan in the following ways:

- Providing a program of community-based learning opportunities that support faculty and student efforts to achieve **academic excellence**
- Facilitating a collaborative campus-community relationship that provides the basis for **integrated learning** experiences for students and faculty, including opportunities for research and practice
- Supporting the university **commitment to students** by providing high-quality support and resources to both individual students and groups
- Facilitating community placements for both students and faculty where, in the course of their learning experience, they provide valuable **service to others**.
- Collaborating not only with our community partners but also with other campus programs such as Sobrato, SCCAP, the Bannan Institute, and the Center for Multicultural Learning to foster a respect for a **diversity** of partners, viewpoints, and endeavors while maintaining the shared values of the campus and larger **community**.
- Witnessing in all the above ways our commitment to the **Jesuit values** of the service of faith and the promotion of justice.

Eastside Project Goals:

Goal #1: To increase and improve faculty, student, and community involvement in the Eastside Project, so that participants practice vigilance towards social justice, compassion for those who suffer, and active involvement in efforts to alleviate injustice and suffering.

Objectives to be met by June 2001:

- 1.) In consultation with academic departments and The Bannan Institute, ESP will have identified and begun to develop in-depth placements for students at three partner agencies to meet discipline-specific educational objectives.

2.) In conjunction with the Bannan Institute and the Sobrato Residential Learning Complex, ESP will have

- provided support and resources for a spring break immersion experience for Sobrato residents
- participated in the development and implementation of the Sobrato application process for the academic year 2001-1001 so that the incoming residents will be committed to participating in Sobrato's residential learning experience involving themes of faith and justice
- developed and implemented Sobrato programming so that residents have actively participated in community outreach projects

3.) In order to fulfill its role as a community nexus, ESP will have produced

- A network for information and support for SCU immersion experiences
- student-produced narratives for more of its placement website pages
- detailed descriptions on its website of the current programs offered through ESP, including the immersion program, the student summer grant program, and linkage to the Sobrato webpage
- a complete guide to SCU campus-community links and programs
- a bulletin board in Sobrato which will be open to all students and ESP partners to publicize faith and justice activities on campus and in the community
- publicity materials to be distributed to all our partners regarding our name change and our new programs.

4.) ESP will have completed the second round of grants to SCU students to support social justice projects, involving:

- establishing philosophical and funding parameters with its student steering committee
- devising with the steering committee an information and application process
- providing support and resources to the student committee so that grants are awarded in an equitable and timely way.

5.) ESP will have developed and conducted at least one session for faculty and senior placement personnel, including

- Information and research on community-based learning
- Teaching strategies
- Reflection techniques
- Opportunities for linkages between faculty and community

6.) In order to establish adequate and useful ongoing assessment of ESP programs, the following mechanisms will be in place:

- internal assessment procedures developed by ESP staff which provide the information necessary for ESP to maintain community placements and support students and faculty in their learning goals
- an assessment process devised in consultation with an outside expert which will analyze and measure the efficacy of community-based learning
- regular review of new ESP programs.

Goal #2: To expand the Eastside Project mission to the global community by developing, in conjunction with The Bannan Institute, a program formalizing and expanding the tradition of immersion experiences for Santa Clara University faculty, staff, and students.

Objectives to be met by June 2001:

- 1.) A delegation of senior SCU faculty occupying positions of influence will have undergone an immersion experience involving trip preparation, the immersion, and will be in the process of developing community-based learning projects with the support of ESP and Bannan Institute
- 2.) The members of this delegation will be actively involved in promoting community-based learning in their individual academic departments, including both research and practice
- 3.) A Praxis Theology course coordinated by ESP and taught by various guest faculty will have been offered in conjunction with the various spring break immersion experiences open to students.

Measures of Continued Success:

In addition to actualizing the objectives listed above, the following will be used to measure our progress towards our goals:

- 1.) Increase in number of students in ESP placements
- 2.) Increase in number of faculty who use ESP program and resources
- 3.) Increase in number of academic departments that incorporate community-based learning into their department curriculum
- 4.) Improvement in our facilitation of placements suited to the learning goals of individual professors and of academic departments, based on feedback from all partners
- 5.) Improvement in ESP development and support of our community partners so that they continue to improve their on-site mentoring of ESP students, particularly through the establishment of in-depth community programs
- 6.) Development of ESP staff to meet increased demands arising from new programs.

Learning Outcomes:

Academic Knowledge: Student learning in academic coursework will be enhanced by direct contact with poor and marginalized people, as theory-based knowledge gained in the classroom is integrated with community-based experience.

Student Development: Students will become more aware of the challenges facing people from diverse economic and cultural contexts. Personal interactions in the community-based learning context will result in psychosocial, moral, and spiritual development.

Research: Drawing from a variety of research methods, students will develop skills necessary for conducting research in diverse cultural settings. This experience will build a solid foundation for post-graduate research.

Social Analysis and Critique: As a result of direct experience and research, students will be educated in the needs of the poor and marginalized, and the unjust social contexts that give rise to their predicament. Students will be well versed in, and committed to, the personal and political responses that are called for in the preferential option for the poor.

Personal Commitment: Intellectual inquiry and reflection on community experience will foster in students a sense of compassion for those who struggle as well as a commitment to active, lifelong involvement in efforts to alleviate injustice and suffering.