Veterans Program Receives $105K

Just in time for Veterans Day, the Veterans Education Program was awarded two grants to fund and expand its efforts at Fresno State. The Program received a $5,000 grant from Pacific Gas and Electric and a $100,000 grant from the Red and Nancy Arnold Foundation.

Founded in 2012, the Program serves as a gateway to higher education for veterans. The Veterans Education office in Lab School 1 serves as a study room, computer lab, and resource for veteran advising, guidance, and success.

Veterans Day Activities
Student veterans were honored at the Fresno State vs. Wyoming game on November 1. Representatives from the Veterans Education Program were also on hand for the Memorial Sign unveiling.

The sign was moved from the Cedar/Shaw intersection to its current location between the Speech Arts and Thomas Administration buildings.

Program representatives participated in the Fresno Veterans Day Parade, in conjunction with the Omega Delta Sigma co-ed veterans’ fraternity and the Student Veterans Organization.

Fresno State community members—including President Castro, Provost Zelezny, and Vice Presidents Castadio and Lamas (pictured above)—signed cards and donated care packages in a joint effort with the Central Valley Blue Star Moms. The Greeting Cards for Troops project will provide care packages and seasons’ greetings to troops who are on deployment over the holidays.

For more information, please contact Dr. Daniel Bernard, Executive Director, at 559.278.1901.
Web: returningveteranseducation.com
Downtown Center Takes Shape

Remodeling work is underway at South Stadium, Bitwise Industries’ second facility in downtown Fresno. The collaborative office space will also house Fresno State’s Downtown Center, which will begin offering non-credit programs to the downtown workforce in June.

The Downtown Center’s inaugural course offerings will focus on professional development for organizations and companies in the education, healthcare, and nonprofit sectors. A grant-writing workshop is currently in development, as are courses in project management, digital marketing, intellectual property, and business communication.

#BusinessUnbundled is a unique set of non-credit courses that will be targeted at Bitwise clientele and the greater small business community. These courses will allow students to learn about specific areas of business operation over 10-20 hours of instruction. Topics will include strategic planning, operations, and product development.

The Downtown Center classrooms will have space for 40-50 students and feature digital projectors, whiteboards, and surge protectors for student laptops. The classrooms will be available seven days a week for daytime and evening courses.

For more information on the Downtown Center, please contact Susan Hawksworth, David Hoff, or Frank Puccio at 559.278.0333. If you have an idea for a downtown educational program, please fill out the interest form on the website below.

Web: fresnostatedowntown.com

Travel Study Programs Planned for Fiji, Chile, and Hong Kong

Winter Break is a busy time for study abroad programs. This year, students will embark on three trips. Each program provides three units of credit. Please join us in wishing our students safe travels in the coming months!

The Fiji Service Learning Adventure will send students to Nabotini, Fiji for cultural immersion, exploration, and a service project. Students will earn credit for Community Service 101.

Chile: Farm to Port will focus on agricultural operations and supply chains in Chile. Students will visit universities and meet with USDA representatives. Credit will be earned for Agricultural Business 185T.

Hong Kong: International Social Work will address the city’s approaches to social welfare, mental health, HIV-AIDS prevention, and substance abuse. Students will earn credit for Social Work 271T.

Use the link below to see more travel study programs:

Web: fresnostate.edu/cge/international/travel/studytours.html

Coming Soon: Improved International Travel Process

By Frank Puccio, Manager of Finance and Administration

Continuing and Global Education is currently finalizing a variety of process improvements and aids for the planning and execution of Faculty-Led Short-Term International Travel Study trips. The goal is to improve the process and provide all involved with detailed descriptions of responsibilities and process flow.

The improvements and aids include the following:

- Handbook for Faculty Members (UPDATED)
- Flow chart for Department Chairs and Deans (NEW)
- Formal presentation and support aids for Department Administrative Assistants (NEW)

The improvements and aids are set to debut for the spring 2015 semester. Please be on the lookout for a formal announcement from Continuing and Global Education soon.

For more information, please contact Cyndy Trent or Frank Puccio at 559.278.0333.
High Hazard Travel
Planning a Safe Study Abroad Experience

Studying abroad provides a rich and fulfilling experience to students, but ever-changing global conditions warrant careful planning and awareness of issues that could threaten the safety of the travel group. All faculty, students, and staff who travel internationally on CSU business must obtain insurance from the California State University Risk Management Authority (CSURMA) Foreign Travel Insurance Program. Students may purchase insurance through Continuing and Global Education’s Study Abroad website (see link below).

CSURMA establishes system-wide policy concerning global travel conditions. Countries that are designated as “highly hazardous” by the CSURMA are off-limits for all study abroad experiences and University-sponsored student travel.

Travel Warnings
The U.S. State Department issues Travel Warnings when travelers need to use extreme caution and seriously consider whether they need to travel to a particular country or not. The CSURMA high hazard list is based on the State Department’s Travel Warning list.

Travel Warnings are typically issued when a country is experiencing government instability, civil war, ongoing and intense crime/violence, and/or frequent terrorist attacks. Travel Warnings remain in effect until the situation materially improves, a process that may take years.

Numerous travel warnings are currently in effect, including warnings for Mexico and Ukraine due to organized criminal activity and military conflict, respectively.

Travel Alerts
The State Department also issues Travel Alerts, which advise travelers about events that may impact their destination countries for a limited time. Travel Alerts may be issued in areas where an imminent election presents risk of strikes, demonstrations, or riots. Travel Alerts may also be issued for weather events or epidemics.

Travel Alerts are currently in effect for several West African nations due to the Ebola outbreak, and the South Pacific due to the tropical cyclone season.

What to Expect
If a country is deemed highly hazardous after a trip has been planned, that trip will have to be modified or cancelled, regardless of expense. Exceptions to this rule may only be granted by the Chancellor’s Office, and then only in extraordinary circumstances.

Under limited circumstances, non-study abroad travel (e.g. faculty research trips or campus delegations) may be permitted to highly hazardous countries. Such trips must receive underwriter approval and be reported to the Chancellor’s Office at least 30 days in advance of departure.

Faculty should be very aware of potential upcoming risks when planning trips. Current events may prompt serious concerns from students and parents, even if the destination country has not been placed on the high hazard list. It is up to the faculty member to decide whether or not to proceed, modify, or cancel the trip. The high costs and long timeframe involved with planning international travel could preclude refunds if students decide to withdraw or the trip is cancelled.

For more information, please contact Cyndy Trent at 559.278.0333.

Study Abroad Information for Faculty: fresnostate.edu/cge/international/travel/faculty.html
Study Abroad Travel Insurance: fresnostate.edu/cge/international/abroad/insurance.html
Critical Changes to Blackboard During Winter Intersession

Blackboard will look slightly different for faculty and students during the upcoming Winter Intersession. Fresno State’s Blackboard system will be offline during Winter Break to accommodate system upgrades. An alternate site has been established for winter courses. The site is hosted by Amazon Web Services and faculty will be able to login using the link at the bottom of this page. Faculty and students who are not participating in Winter Intersession do not need to worry about the alternate site.

Copying Existing Courses
Faculty who want to use existing Blackboard courses for their Winter Intersession classes may do so by requesting that TILT copy and paste the course into the alternate site. To file a request, visit the “TILT Forms” page linked below and email the “Course Copy/Restore Form” to tiltsupport@csufresno.edu. Course copy requests must be made by December 12. Once a course has been copied, the faculty member will have a week to review the course materials on the alternate site. TILT staff will be available to assist with any discrepancies.

Notable Changes
The alternate Blackboard site will be similar in function and appearance to the standard site, but several services will not be available, including Blackboard Collaborate and TurnItIn. Alternative services will be provided where possible—Virtual Classroom and Chat will be available for student interaction while SafeAssign will stand in for TurnItIn. ZOOM will also be available for synchronous audio/visual communication with students. ZOOM is not included by default, and faculty who wish to use it must contact Rudy Sanchez at rjsanchez@csufresno.edu no later than December 12. A complete list of changes in Blackboard tools can be found on the alternate Blackboard login page.

Registration Deadline
Faculty members will not be able to manually add students to their Blackboard shells on the alternate site. As a result, Winter Intersession registration will close at midnight on Tuesday, December 23 so that enrolled students can be added to Blackboard before holiday closures begin.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Continuing and Global Education at 559.278.0333 or email cgeinfo@csufresno.edu.

Alternate Blackboard Site Login: bbl-cge.learn.fresnostate.edu
TILT Forms: fresnostate.edu/academics/blackboard/fac-staff/request-forms.html

Staff Changes
Manager of Finance and Administration
Frank Puccio was hired as Manager of Finance and Administration in August

Strategic Projects Specialist
David Hoff was hired as Strategic Projects Specialist in August

Important Dates
December 1
WINTER INTERSESSION - early registration fee deadline for students

December 2
WINTER INTERSESSION - registration suspended pending course schedule revisions

December 5
WINTER INTERSESSION - course schedule revised based on enrollment

WINTER INTERSESSION - registration resumes (students pay fees within 24 hours of registration)

MAY-JUNE INTERSESSION - deadline to submit course proposals

SUMMER SESSION - deadline to submit course proposals

December 23
WINTER INTERSESSION – final registration deadline

December 26 – January 9, 2015
WINTER INTERSESSION - courses in session

January 15
OPEN UNIVERSITY – student registration opens for spring 2015 semester

January 16
WINTER INTERSESSION - grades due

January 20
EXTENSION - call for summer course proposals

February 12
OPEN UNIVERSITY – student registration deadline for spring 2015 semester

February 20
EXTENSION - summer course proposals due

Ongoing
SPECIAL SESSIONS - Program proposals are always due a minimum of eight weeks before the class start date