



Community Engagement Programs

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Special points of interest:

- Ed Studies Student uses USL internship to start career
- Service-Learning goes to Costa Rica Summer 2015
- America Reads receives \$5,000 Grant!

Great Success at Aguilar Elementary

Aguilar Elementary, a Title I school in Tempe School District, has recently had great success with integrating USL students into the schools programs. The school was redesigned to be fitness focused where students are learning to take care of themselves academically and physically. The school also offers a variety of parent classes, and its goal this year was to involve the community.

The partnership between University Service-Learning and Aguilar Elementary began a few years ago and the school has been steadily increasing the number of interns it hosts each semester. With the influx of USL students interested in working at Aguilar, the school changed the way teachers could use interns in their classrooms and has had



great success with the addition of USL students to their programs.

Currently Aguilar offers three internship options but no matter which internship they choose, mentoring is an essential part of what each intern provides for the students. "USL interns are providing another outlet for kids getting to see hope for college. Kids are sharing their stories about working with interns with their parents. Seeing that their kids are excited

about [college] helps the parents to be excited and motivated to help get their kids there," says Principal JoLyn Gibbons.

With plans in January to offer a fourth internship opportunity, Aguilar is looking to maximize the number of ASU students integrated in the school's programs. "Last year there was an increase from low C to a high B level. I feel it's directly related to the one-on-one support that we're able to give

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Great Success at Aguilar Elementary (cont.)

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kids that are struggling and not just academic support but the emotional support," says Gibbons.

The impact doesn't stop with the students. Gibbons says that "Parents are seeing how easy it can be to get involved at the school through seeing the USL

interns come in and volunteer." She said in the future the school hopes to open its library to parents in the evening with the possibility of utilizing USL interns in that capacity also.

Now with over 75% of the school's staff trained to be USL supervisors the school is setting up consistent schedules for USL interns and plans to only grow

the partnership. "We want school to be fun but educational at the same time and helping teachers with that balance is what the USL students bring - that light and energy. They've brought a different mix to the classroom that helps the teachers." "I'm so proud of our program," says Gibbons.

Tutoring student participant reconnected after more than 10 years



While speaking with former principal of Valley View Elementary John Wann at the USL 20 Year Anniversary event, Director Deb Ball flashed back to the early years of the program to one of the tutoring sites she used to work at. Reminiscing about faces and names of passed students, Wann offered to reconnect her with one student from the program, Andrew Romo.

In the early years of the Service-Learning program, Romo was a student participant in the tutoring program at the Valley View Elementary from 2nd grade through 8th grade. In a recent interview with Romo, he said he can remember the program like

it was yesterday. When asked about his memories of the tutoring program, he says the most significant thing he recalls is the feeling that tutoring helped him get through school. When he didn't understand something in class, in math for example, his tutor was there afterschool to help him and it really made a difference having someone to guide and support him. Romo shared memories about specific tutors who to him were like older siblings that were there not only for academic support but also as mentors. "Interacting with college students in el school made me more driven to actually go to college. It made me dream, made me think of what degree I want to get...into what field of work I want to get into. Interacting with them on a daily basis really benefitted me and made me want to set a goal for myself back in elementary school," says Romo.

Now, more than 10 years later Romo has completed some college and is working to save money for his degree. His younger brother, he says, attended the very program he completed when he was in ele-

mentary school. Romo says for him, the experience is an invaluable one that he can pass on to his brother and younger family members. He boasts of trips that the program used to take to ASU campus and says that now he brings his brother to campus showing him all of the places his tutors shared with him. "I brought him on campus and we walked around all over. He was so excited about seeing all of the different academic departments and some of the events going on, and seeing students walking around such a beautiful campus he got so excited. Now he has a goal of graduating high school and then going to ASU."



Andrew Romo with USL tutor Robby.

Educational Studies student begins professional career through USL Internship



Recent University Service-Learning student, Alana Stanley used her internship at CPLC Parenting Arizona as the start of her professional career after graduating. A graduate from ASU's Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College Educational Studies degree

program, Alana fulfilled her degree requirements in the USL course and landed an internship that helped shape her career path as a professional educator.

In her first USL course she spent the semester as an intern mentoring a five-year-old child in foster care. While rewarding, she realized she was meant to follow a different path and sought out an internship with CPLC Parenting Arizona for her second USL course in her senior year. After working with the non-profit organization for the semester the experience helped her uncover her niche in the education field. Now Stanley is a full-time staff member with the organization and says, "Once I finished the internship hours and completed all of my assignments, I didn't want to leave."

The opportunity for Alana and many other Educational Studies students to explore different education career paths outside of the traditional classroom is critical to these students finding their place in the field. The field experience they receive through the USL course internships also provides crucial networking opportunities for future employment "Everybody here is just so nice. It really got my foot in the door," says Stanley.

"Once I finished the internship hours and completed all of my assignments, I didn't want to leave."

- Alana Stanley

America Reads Tutoring Program in the News

America Reads was featured on a Channel 3 news story touting the benefits of tutoring to both tutor and tutee. Students gain academic support and mentoring and ASU tutors gain work experience while still in college!

[Watch the news segment and read the story here!](#)



Extracurricular Activities Enhance Educational Success



Deborah Ball, Director of Community Engagement Programs, was interviewed for a Channel 3 news story on the effects of extracurricular activities on academic success.

Similar to University Service-Learning courses, participating in extracurricular activities "gives [students] experiences they can connect to the classroom and as things come up those light bulbs start going off for the kids" said Deborah Ball in the interview.

[Watch the Video Here](#)

USL offers Study Abroad Opportunity in Summer 2015!

University Service-Learning is offering a study abroad program in Costa Rica for the Summer 2015 semester. Service projects include building biodigesters to provide electricity to homes, teaching English, and other community sustainability projects!

Complete details online at: <https://studyabroad.asu.edu/?go=ServiceLearningCR>

Thank You to Recent Donors

The America Reads Tutoring program was recently chosen to receive a \$5,000 grant from the KEYES Family Foundation. The program plans to use the funds to purchase laptops, program supplies and books for the children at each of the America Reads sites. Thank you to the KEYES Family Foundation for their support and contribution to the enhancement of the tutoring program.

America Reads was also the big winner at the Young Non-Profit Professional Network (YNPN) holiday party raffle. Each attendee made a donation of \$5 at the door for a lucky raffle winner's non-profit of choice. Former America Reads staff, Chelsie Hancock was thrilled when they called her name along with a check for \$345 made out to America Reads. Thank you YNPN for supporting America Reads!



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