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Cal State Northridge gets federal tax-resolution grant

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Just in time for tax season, the U.S. Department of Treasury has awarded CSUN a grant for its Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation Clinic to help launch a free federal tax controversy resolution service.

The \$45,000 grant will help the university offer the resolution service to low-income Los Angeles taxpayers who face a dispute with the Internal Revenue Service.

Under the supervision of a tax professional, California State University, Northridge, students represent members of the community free of charge.

Student clinicians receive instruction on the intricacies of substantive tax law, preparation and procedure. In turn, they educate taxpayers on various tax-related issues. More than 40 students work in the clinic.

By helping resolve controversies, graduate and undergraduate students learn how to prepare cases for appeals conferences, interview clients and negotiate settlements with the IRS, said Rafi Efrat, director of the clinic and professor of

accounting and information systems.

"Aside from providing assistance with tax disputes, the students also facilitate free educational workshops throughout the community on the rights and responsibilities of taxpayers," he said.

For more information on the Bookstein Tax Clinic, call 818-677-3600.