Campus Says ‘Thank You’ to Volunteers for Valuable Service

Highest Volunteer Honor Awards to Tony and Chris Partipilo; Robert Gohstand is Emeriti Honoree

Cal State Northridge's top volunteer honors were awarded to alumni Tony and Chris Partipilo and geography professor emeritus Robert Gohstand at the annual Volunteer Service Awards ceremony on November 4.

President Jolene Koester and Alumni Association President Gene Detchemendy led more than 300 faculty, staff, alumni and friends in saluting the Partipilos, Gohstand and 23 other dedicated volunteers.

The Dorothea "Granny" Heitz Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership, honoring alumni who serve CSUN as outstanding volunteer role models, was presented to the Partipilos, the only husband and wife to have served both as presidents of the alumni association and as officers and members of the Cal State Northridge Foundation Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Tony Partipilo (Political Science and History, '69) helped launch a series of receptions and university newsletter profiles designed to keep prominent alumni closely connected to CSUN. As alumni association president in 1985, he set his sights on scholarships and greater alumni benefits, including group insurance. Partipilo's efforts were realized: this year marks the 20th anniversary of group insurance benefits for Northridge alumni.

Director of consultation operations and a supervising attorney with The Cochran Firm’s criminal defense section, Partipilo is among the few to earn emeritus status on the CSUN Foundation board, on which he served for 10 years. Chris Partipilo (History, '82), a senior technical writer for Alcatel Corporation, was elected to the first of two terms as Alumni Association board president in 1994.

She pushed for creation of “Northridge Alumni,” the precursor to today’s Northridge magazine, in an effort to keep alumni informed and involved. In addition, Partipilo helped launch the campus’ first bank card alumni partnership.

Her leadership resulted in the association’s first strategic plan, considered the cornerstone of the university’s modern alumni relations program. Robert Gohstand received the 2005 Emeriti Merit Award for extraordinary service.

Volunteer Service Awards ceremonies continue on page 2.

Northridge Study Paints Bright Economic Future for Valley

Employment Rolls Gain Nearly 12,000 Workers; Housing Boom is Alive and Well

The future looks good for the San Fernando Valley as the area continues to build on last year’s job gains, according to a new study by Cal State Northridge researchers. The Valley’s private sector added 11,800 workers to its employment rolls in 2004, a 1.8 percent gain that outshines the 1.2 percent increase in the area experienced in 2003. Valley growth outperformed Los Angeles County’s job growth increase of only 1 percent and the state’s overall increase of just 1.3 percent in 2004.

Job growth in the Valley is strong, and the outlook is for it to remain strong over the next few years,” said Daniel Blake, director of CSUN’s San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center. The area’s housing boom also is alive and well, he said, but infrastructure issues—such as traffic and transportation—remain a challenge.

The Valley’s private sector payrolls increased by $1.9 billion, and average earnings by almost $2,000. However, inflation consumed half the payroll increase and three-quarters of the increase in average pay.

Valley industries with strong job growth in 2004 included construction, with an 8 percent increase; management, support and administration, with a 5.5 percent increase; retail trade, with a 3.7 percent increase; and accommodations and food services, with a 3.5 percent increase.

Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing sector performances were weaker, down 2.9 percent, and manufacturing, down 2.8 percent.

The entertainment industry saw a 3.3 percent increase in jobs and 7.3 percent growth in its payroll.

The Valley’s biotechnology industry lost 1 percent of its workforce, but added 9.3 percent to its payroll.

Among the study’s other findings:

- Commercial vacancy rates dropped by more than two percentage points to register below 10 percent in the second quarter of 2005, compared to the nation’s average of nearly 15 percent. The industrial vacancy rate fell to 2.5 percent from its 3 percent level last year.
- Median home prices rose to $600,000 in July 2005, but annual appreciation rates slowed from last year's mid 20 percent to low 30 percent range. Inventory is up from its record lows in 2004 but remain below normal.
- Apartment vacancy rates averaged 5.7 percent in the third quarter of 2005, up from 5 percent in the same quarter last year.

For a copy of the full report, contact the research center at (818) 677-7021 or at gferg@csun.edu.
Mitchell Family Counseling Clinic is Dedicated at CSUN
Faculty Couple is Honored at Ceremony Attended by Many from Campus, Community

President Jolene Koester and top campus officials joined a throng of celebrants at the dedication of the Mitchell Family Counseling Clinic, honoring the clinic’s namesakes: faculty members Rie and Rex Mitchell and their son, Scott.

President Koester saluted the Mitchells at an October 25 campus ceremony naming the clinic, which houses the Michael D. Eisner College of Education’s family counseling services for communities in Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

“It is the generosity of people, of family, of faculty like Rie and Rex and their son, Scott, that makes it possible for Cal State Northridge to maintain the margin of excellence that distinguishes this university,” said the president, preceded at the podium by Dean Philip Busche of the Eisner College of Education and by Harry Hellenbrand, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Rie and Rex Mitchell, respective chairs of CSUN’s Educational Psychology and Counseling Department and the Management Department, respectively, have joined with son Scott to establish the Mitchell Family Endowment Fund. The income from the $50,000 endowment, said President Koester, will fund in perpetuity the operating costs of the counseling services and the clinical training opportunities provided by the Eisner College of Education.

Rie Mitchell, a nationally recognized expert in therapy, is a leader in the use of sand play as a therapeutic tool for work with young children. Rex Mitchell is an influential figure in the arenas of strategic management, organizational development, conflict management, team building and other management areas. Their combined service to the university totals more than 59 years.

In a salute to colleagues in her department as well as to community professionals and students who had come to witness the dedication, Rie Mitchell stressed that all of their contributions have enabled CSUN to offer “an outstanding training organization as well as a community resource for clinical health.”

Special recognition—and a burst of applause—was reserved for clinical administrator Jodi McIntosh. “We couldn’t get along without Jodi,” said Mitchell.

The Eisner College’s community counseling programs also are located at Gault Street Elementary School, Soledad Charter School and the Samaritan Center in Simi Valley.

Volunteer Service Awards…
continued from page 1

CSU Trustees OK 2006–07 Budget and Fee Increase Proposal
Request Could Generate Increase of $235.5 Million in Funding for System and Campuses

The California State University Board of Trustees has approved a proposed 2006–07 budget request which, if funded by the state, would mean an increase of $255.5 million for the CSU and its 23 campuses.

Consistent with the second year of the Compact for Higher Education with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the CSU is proposing a 3 percent increase in the state General Fund appropriation and a 2.3 percent increase in student enrollment, which would provide access to an additional 10,000 students. CSU’s current General Fund budget is $2.6 billion.

The budget request also proposes to increase the State University Fee for undergraduate and credential students by 8 percent, and the graduate student fee by 10 percent. The fee increases also are consistent with the governor’s compact. Even with the fee increase, CSU student fees are among the lowest in the nation.

State support revenue for 2006–07 is expected to increase by $255.5 million. Revenue from the state general fund will be $124.5 million and revenue from the increase in student fees will be $107 million.

The CSU will set aside 33 percent of the student fee revenue to provide $32.7 million in additional funds for the State University Grant (SUG) financial aid program. This will allow the CSU to provide financial aid to an additional 5,100 students.

The recommended budget provides $77.4 million for a 3 percent compensation pool and $16.5 million to begin the first year of a five-year plan to close employee compensation gaps. The budget also includes $10 million for long-term needs to support funding for current incrocity ($5 million), libraries ($2.5 million) and deferred maintenance ($2.5 million).

CSU expenditures will include mandatory costs of $53.6 million to fund increases in health benefits, new space, service-based salary increases for certain employee groups, and higher energy costs.

Assuming the 2006–07 proposed annual undergraduate fee of $2,724 and including the 2005–06 average campus-based fees of $664, the CSU’s total 2006–07 undergraduate fee of $3,388 would still be among the lowest in the country.

The current 2005–06 annual State University Fee is $2,520. Adding in the $644 average campus-based fees, students now pay $3,164 annually. The 2006–07 proposed State University Fee for credential candidates is $3,156 and $3,414 for graduate students.
Van Nuys Airport Comes on Board as Student Research Journal Partner

Thanks to a new partnership with the Van Nuys Airport, Cal State Northridge’s Journal of Student Research Abstracts will step into the national arena with publication of its spring 2006 issue.

Van Nuys Airport has taken over the long-term publication of the journal, which previously published student research abstracts from local K–12 students only, but now is offering students nationwide a chance to have their work published.

Selena Kirk, Van Nuys Airport manager, said the new sponsorship “builds on the airport’s longstanding commitment to supporting the science education of tomorrow’s leaders.” Plans already are in the works to hire CSUN student interns to help produce the journal, whose pages have included research on topics ranging from cancer cells to wind energy. Seeing their research published motivates students to enter scientific fields, said Steven Oppenheimer, the publication’s editor and director of CSUN’s Center for Cancer and Developmental Biology. Such motivation is needed to produce top scientists if it is to remain secure.

While the journal will continue to accept abstracts on all areas of research, future issues will encourage a focus on aviation and aerospace. “We believe the young people of today can be the aviation leaders of tomorrow,” said Stacy Geere, public and community relations director for the airport.

Geere said the airport, operated by Los Angeles World Airports, will use its resources to type, format and print the publication, previously published by Pearson Education in Boston.

Students must submit their work to the journal by February 1, 2006. For information, contact Oppenheimer at steven@csun.edu.

Students Speak Up at CSUN Tournament

More than 400 debaters and speakers—including the two shown above in an animated presentation—participated in the CSUN High School Invitational Tournament in October. Coordinated by CSUN forensics director Becky Opsata, the event drew students from 25 high schools in California and Nevada.
FILMMAKERS, BUSINESS LEADERS SHARE INSIGHTS WITH STUDENTS

Intent on creating successful careers in business and in cinema and television arts, nearly 400 Cal State Northridge students on November 3 poured into campus lecture halls to hear four speakers whose achievements in those fields have won national recognition.

As part of the university’s fall 2005 Executive Speaker Series, eminent filmmakers Breck Eisner and Frank Marshall shared information with students in the College of Arts, Media, and Communication. Business titans Angelo Mozilo and Charles Noski, CSUN alumni, spoke to College of Business and Economics students.

The series was conceived as a way to allow CSUN students to interact with men and women who are among the “best and the brightest” in their fields, said Judy C. Krubson, vice president for university advancement.

Breck Eisner, director of the feature film “Sahara” and the Emmy Award-winning science fiction television miniseries “Taken,” also has directed more than 100 television commercials. Eisner spoke to cinema and television arts students.


Angelo Mozilo is chairman and chief executive officer of Countrywide Financial Corporation, a Fortune 500 company and a global leader in residential finance and related services. Mozilo addressed students in the Business 9/2 gateway course.

A recipient of the CSUN Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2002, Charles Noski (Business Administration ’73, Accountancy ’95) is the retired senior executive vice president and CFO of the AT&T Corporation. Noski met with accounting and business studies students.

Now in its second year, the series has brought to campus some of the country’s leading lights in business, journalism, government, education, marketing, entertainment and law.

ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT ENDOWMENT IS DOUBLED

Everyone in the Manufacturing Systems Engineering and Management Department believes the work done there is important, relevant and needed.

“I do, too,” said Bonita Campbell, CSUN alumnus, spoke to College of Engineering and Management students.

“Becoming involved with the department and other cinema and television arts students spoke with intermediate film production faculty, staff and seniors, $5 students.

I would put my money where my mouth is,” she said in fall 2004 after creating a $25,000 endowment to help secure the department’s financial future.

In a new demonstration of her commitment to the work of students and colleagues in her department, Campbell recently doubled the size of the Bonita J. Campbell Engineering Management Endowment with the contribution of another $25,000.

Campbell’s initial gift has been supplemented with monthly paycheck deductions, generating even greater yields. Support from the endowment has helped support student and graduate assistants as well as such program-related expenses as guest lecturer fees.

Offering the only programs of their kind in the area, the department was formed to meet the needs of systems and production specialists to serve the many manufacturing production companies in the greater Los Angeles area.

A number of the department’s former students have gone on to successful careers in engineering management, returning to CSUN to teach part-time for “modest” remuneration.

“Endowment is a way of giving back to my students and my colleagues,” said Campbell.