January 2021

Service in the Time of COVID

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**Recommended Citation**  
Available at: https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/rr/vol2/iss1/8

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Looking back over the past year, it is incredible to think about how much uncertainty, change, and transition we have all experienced. Our way of life changed in an instant and that affected the way we live, learn, and work. The Spring 2020 semester began like any other, which meant almost a thousand students were participating in community-based learning activities such as Service Learning, Academic Internships, Clinical Placement or Teacher Education. We left the campus for Spring Break 2020, expecting to return in a few days. As it turned out, we left campus only to begin a virtual world of education and a virtual world of work, service, and internships. Well into summer it became clear that, come fall, those signed up for community-based learning experiences were going to largely continue participating in those experiences virtually. In the spring, many of these experiences were shifted to a virtual setting while still providing meaningful connections and service. Collaborations were created for the fall semester that will long outlast this virus and an incredible number of students and community partners have found ways to work together. The response from our community, faculty, and especially our students, is a bright spot and a bit of great news. Our students, faculty, staff, and local partners are as resilient as they are committed to working together.

In addition to the many individual projects and internships set up for our students, a number of faculty and departments have come together to create two large-scale programs that allow for students to gain valuable experience and connect with members of the community. The first of these is ConnectED. ConnectED is a partnership between the Center for Community Based Learning, the Office of Admissions, Youth Educational Services, Humboldt County Office of Education and a number of faculty representing departments across HSU. This program connects students and classes across HSU’s disciplines with local K-12 programs to provide penpals and virtual curriculum for local classrooms.

The second program is “Humboldt in the Time of COVID” which has connected more than a dozen faculty and has more than 75 students collecting oral histories throughout our community. These stories will be published through the library archive, featured in local news outlets, and displayed in our local museums.

The following are some highlights from these programs as well as some of the great service, internships, and other community-based learning experiences that have happened throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
Sydney Perata
Soc 482
Organization or Project

Dan Perata Training:
Organizational Mission

"At Dan Perata Training, our method of positive reinforcement training is centered on fun, praise, and healthy habits.

We focus on building lifelong energy management.

Our mission is to ensure that the animals we train are in an environment that supports the community and those who need our help. We care about the business as much as we care about the dogs."

Organizational Services
- Personal Training
- Board and Trainer
- Daycare/Offering
- Dog walking
- Sitter Support
- Socialization for dogs and people
- Ongoing Training for Dogs
- Nutrition/Physical Support Training
- Local Researcher (Osteo Pathology)

Gabriella Balandran
Soc 482
Organization or Project

Sovereign Bodies Institute
Eureka, CA
Sociology 438
Society May 14, 2020

The Sovereign Bodies Institute is dedicated to social justice for indigenous peoples.

- Personalized training
- Ongoing support
- Managed social media sites
- 501c3 non-profit organization
- Committed to research

Psychology 438
United Indian Health Services Community Gardens

UIHS Garden Team Project
Community Gardens
Abby Miller, Abigail Clark, Andrea Powers, Drew Olin, Jarad Quintero, Jake Phipps, Jordain DeLaCruz, Meagan Achten, Barnett, Shelby
Fowler, Shelley Magallanes
Psych 480
Dr. Graham

Psychology 480
Humboldt Mediation Services

We provide conflict resolution services for disputes of all kinds, including divorce and separation, child custody, family conflict, workplace or business conflict, property conflict, and even business conflict.
Dear Amara,

That sounds like a really fun summer! I got to see my friends in July too when I went home to Palo Alto for a couple weeks. Even though my family is in Palo Alto, my mom's mom is from Hawaii and her dad's family moved over here during the gold rush. My mom is both Japanese and Chinese. My dad is Dutch, so his family is from Holland or the Netherlands and they moved over to America just before he was born. I also have a twin sister! We don't look alike though, she's always been so much taller than me :-(.

Hmm well, I originally chose to go to HSU because they had a diverse path for my degree in Biology, but I changed my mind once I got here. I really missed art classes and HSU's art program is so welcoming!

I like to draw people! These are some pieces I made of my friends and below them is an abstract painting I made for one of my classes. What's your favorite thing to paint?

I sort of like online school. I miss getting to meet new people and connect with them, but I still made a few new friends. I also like being able to stay home with my cat, she likes to block my camera when I'm in class. Plus, waking up later is really nice. Is your class online too? How is it for you?

Finally, I'm doing well. How are you? :)

Sincerely,

Vanessa