

ACCESS

MAGAZINE A PUBLICATION OF THE DIVISION OF CONTINUING & GLOBAL EDUCATION

Community
DONATIONS

Connect
INSTITUTE

Study Abroad
FUNDING

International Coffee
HOUR

Career
READINESS

Brew
U

FACULTY-LED
**STUDY
ABROAD
NEPAL**



FRESNO STATE

Continuing and Global Education

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



The Division of Continuing and Global Education provides educational *Access* to populations of life-long learners who are not served by California State University, Fresno's state-funded programs. Our diverse educational portfolio accounts for tens of thousands of enrollments each year, enriching the culture of California's Central Valley. Of

particular pride, is our Division's role promoting international travel opportunities for Fresno State students to study abroad. By providing infrastructure, staff support, and funding, we are steadily increasing the number of Fresno State students studying abroad.

In this issue of *Access*, we focus on our Division's impact in the global arena. You will find several articles that highlight travel and study abroad opportunities. We also recognize the generous community support that helps expand student's cultural experiences. Additionally, I am elated to introduce our new Assistant Vice President for International Affairs, Dr. Sarah Lam, who has responsibility for all campus international activity and encourage you to read about her background in the article on page 14. Truly, the merger of International Student Services and Programs and the Division of Continuing and Global Education -- especially the addition of Dr. Lam into our leadership -- marks one of the most significant milestones in the Division's history.

In addition to our international focus, our Division is celebrating several successful programs in our Downtown campus. A highlight is our Career Readiness Academy, a collaborative program that offered the Central Valley community with low-cost and no-cost occupational workshops to advance career potential. And our Brew U program was recognized with the Award of Merit for Economic and Business Development from the International Downtown Revitalization Association.

This is an exceptional time to be in Extended Education and an opportunity to celebrate the *Access* that California State University affords Californians!

Kind regards,

Scott D. Moore, Ph.D.

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& ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Access is a publication of Fresno State's Division of Continuing and Global Education

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FACULTY-LED STUDY ABROAD NEPAL



As the hub of Fresno State's international education programs, the Division of Continuing and Global Education equips hundreds of students with the ability to study abroad each year. Through numerous worldwide educational opportunities for faculty, staff, and students, Continuing and Global Education supports the University's mission of being an internationalized institution.

More than \$600,000 will be distributed to students pursuing global education in the 2017-18 academic year. Approximately 76% of this funding will go toward trips led by Fresno State faculty members, including the 2017 summer study abroad course, Cultural Landscape and Environmental Change in the Himalayas (GEOG 177T).

“Nepal is a living laboratory,” said Dr. Mohan Dangi, who has been leading study abroad courses on the country’s environmental quality since 2010. “It has just about anything you can imagine.”

For more information on Study Abroad,
please visit: [FRESNOSTATE.EDU/STUDYABROAD](https://www.fresnostate.edu/studyabroad)



“The trip was almost beyond description”

~ Harold Gallagher

DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE AN EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE

On May 21, eight Fresno State students traveled to Nepal to work with several of their peers from Tribhuvan University. The 16-day curriculum put students in the unique position to experience and observe a foreign environment first hand.

“The trip was almost beyond description,” said Harold Gallagher, who is currently working on his fifth college degree at 81 years old. “It was the trip of a lifetime and contained many new experiences for me. Just being on the other side of the planet was fascinating,” said Gallagher, who received a Diversity in Study Abroad Grant to attend the trip. “Learning new cultures and customs, living in a new city – Kathmandu - that has its share of problems, associating with groups of people who are just wonderful to work with, and realizing how much help they need to improve their gross national product as a developing nation.”

Faculty members and students from Tribhuvan University participated in different aspects of the course, accompanying the group on expeditions, leading classroom lectures, and working alongside the Fresno State cohort, to encourage an exchange of knowledge.

Dangi developed the course curriculum to ensure students learn about pressing environmental problems in a cross-cultural way. “As much as our students learn

from the Nepalese, the Nepalese students are also expected to learn from our students,” Dangi said. “That’s how study abroad programs should be shared.”

Scientists from Fresno State, Tribhuvan University, and Kathmandu Institute of Applied Sciences provided instruction and mentorship. Students explored Kathmandu Valley, examining urban issues, learning about the region’s solid waste infrastructure, and visiting a women-led waste recovery plant.

The cohort explored Nepal’s stunning geographic attributes and historic sites, from the tallest mountains in the world to ancient temples and shrines. Students trekked through the country’s largest protected range, the Annapurna Conservation Area, and interacted with the Gurung community in Ghandruk, a town in northern-central Nepal.

Looking forward, Dangi plans to open the course to more students, engaging the next generation of scientists. In 2018, course admittance will nearly double, allowing more students to learn about Nepal’s beauty and landscape, as well as the opportunities and problems of the country that hosts the tallest mountains and, according to Dangi, some of the happiest people in the world.



CONNECT INSTITUTE

With the charge of connecting people and education, Connect Institute bridges students in Myanmar with opportunities at Fresno State and throughout the United States.

Connect Institute is designed to function as an American university in Myanmar. In their first and second years in the program, students attend courses at Connect Institute in the city of Yangon, where they have access to a diverse curriculum, comprised of classes required by and transferrable to select universities across the United States. After transferring, and with the exception of specialized majors like Engineering, most students will be able to complete bachelor's degree requirements within two years.

"Connect Institute prepares students in Myanmar to matriculate to an

American university," said Dr. Scott Moore, Dean of the Division of Continuing and Global Education. "Fresno State is one school that has established a formal pathway to ensure the classes students take in Myanmar translate to their degree program at Fresno State."

As one of nine schools across the United States to participate in Connect Institute's American University Transfer Program, Fresno State's involvement is facilitated by International Student Services and Programs. The goal of Connect Institute is directly linked to the Division's mission to provide high-quality services to international students, while serving as an

international education resource to the University community. International Student Services and Programs is housed within the Division of Continuing and Global Education.

This unique program prepares students for life-changing educational opportunities while they are still in their home country. In the first two years of the program, students can take courses in lower division General Education requirements in humanities, science and technology, social science, and arts, media, and communication. Classes range from art history and methods of reasoning, to lifespan development and principles of microeconomics.



This unique program prepares students for life-changing educational opportunities while they are still in their home country.

Fresno State faculty provide feedback on each syllabus taught through Connect, ensuring proper academic preparation. Because of this level of oversight, programs such as Connect are a win-win, Moore said. “When they get here, we know what they’ve studied and have a great deal of confidence in their preparation,” Moore added. “That leads to student success, getting them in and out in an expeditious way.”

Connect Institute courses launched in Myanmar in 2014. Fall of 2017 marked the first semester students transferred from Myanmar to Fresno State.

“Typically, transfer students to U.S. universities from schools in many countries have not completed their general education requirements, so they find themselves effectively going backwards instead of forwards on their degree paths,” said Dirk Binder, chief executive officer for The Center for Advanced Studies, which assists in the development and management of the two-year general

education program in Myanmar. “Our program allows students to complete up to 70 transfer units in general education and other course work, so that when they do transfer, they can go directly into their major.”

Completing the first two years of the program in Myanmar not only reduces the cost for students and their families, it also equips participants with critical thinking and leadership skills required in the United States. Classroom dynamics follow the American educational model, including the teaching style, as professors engage and encourage discussions among students. In addition to the general education courses, participants have access to student clubs and extracurricular activities, all aimed at encouraging participants’ self-discovery and independence. The founders of Connect Institute, (Mr.) Aung Phone Myint and (Ms.) Ei Phyu Theint, are both graduates of American universities, and are dedicated to bringing their experience to students in Myanmar.

“These students are looking for a true opportunity to better themselves and they look to Connect to demystify an international application,” Moore said. “Connect can take a student in Myanmar and equalize their education preparation to ensure they are qualified to graduate.”

For more information on the Connect Program, please visit: FRESNOSTATE.EDU/ISSP



CONTINUING & GLOBAL EDUCATION'S PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS WITH



In 2016, the Division of Continuing and Global Education joined resources with the American Water College, a technical training institution based in Sacramento. As a result of this impactful partnership, the Effective Utility Management Certificate Program was launched, expanding educational offerings for students at Fresno State and across the Valley.

The Effective Utility Management Certificate is designed for professionals in water and utility-related industries seeking additional management experience. The program offers six professional development modules and is delivered in a dynamic hybrid of in-person and online coursework.

For more information on American Water College, please visit: FRESNOSTATE.EDU/CGE/PROFESSIONAL/ONLINE/AWC

The first three modules highlight leadership skills and training, and the last three modules focus on processes and techniques critical to the utilities field. This combination of in-person and online instruction equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to become effective leaders in the utility industry.

“We intentionally divided the program into leadership and management segments,” said Jay Kerschner, executive director of American Water College. “The first three classroom modules are extremely interactive and participants get the opportunity to work in groups and apply the leadership skills they are learning. This allows for group discussion and instructor feedback. The three online modules are geared more toward individual learning and focus on the knowledge and processes required to manage a water utility.”

“

“Our partnership allows us to combine high-quality training with a recognized credential, demonstrating our students have the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and efficiently operate and manage water and wastewater utilities.”

~ Kerschner



“We are proud to serve an industry responsible for providing clean, safe drinking water and keeping our environment and waterways safe and clean,” ~ Kerschner

Each module in the program can be taken in series or as a stand-alone course. Upon successful completion of all six modules, students receive a certificate in Effective Utility Management. To date, 42 students have completed some or all of the certification program.

“It has been really helpful in opening my eyes to how much there is to learn about being effective in the management role, learning not only about yourself and how to identify your strengths and weaknesses, but to see that in others – how to read other people and communicate with a diverse crowd, in a diverse world,” said Joshua Karpel, a water treatment plant supervisor, who has taken four modules in the Effective Utility Management program so far. “The in-class courses have taught me well in this area, as the online classes have opened my eyes to the business part of the utility industry.”

With the success of the program, the partnership with American Water College was expanded earlier this year to include two additional programs, a Water Treatment Technology Certificate Program and a Water Transmission Technology Certificate Program.

“This Effective Utility Management Program has been a great addition to our professional development offerings

and further expanded Fresno State's footprint in water education and technology programs,” said David Hoff, degree, certificate, and early start specialist with Continuing and Global Education. “The fact that it has expanded to include two additional certificates is evidence of its success.”

Both of the newly-added programs are one-year online courses, designed to equip students with the information needed to pass state certification exams and become certified at a higher level. The Water Treatment Technology program focuses on the processes of a treatment plant to produce safe drinking water that meets state and federal regulations. The Water Transmission Technology program focuses on delivering treated water from the plant to the end users, while maintaining water quality standards.

“We are proud to serve an industry responsible for providing clean, safe drinking water and keeping our environment and waterways safe and clean,” said Kerschner. “Our partnership with Continuing and Global Education allows us to combine high-quality training with a recognized credential, demonstrating our students have the knowledge and skills necessary to safely and efficiently operate and manage water and wastewater utilities.”

Effective Utility Management Certificate Program





2017 VETERAN OF THE YEAR

JORDAN CODY

For the last five years, the Veterans Education Program at Fresno State has provided veterans with access to higher education. Available for current or past service members, the program is designed for first-year student veterans and acts as a gateway to full-time coursework.

Housed in Continuing and Global Education, participants work together as a cohort taking coursework required for admittance. After completion of the program, student veterans have the option to matriculate at Fresno State as full-time undergraduate students.

Jordan Cody entered the program in spring of 2016 and completed the program that fall. During that time, Cody took a leadership role and was a resource for new student veterans joining the program. Cody's first semester as a full-time student, spring of 2017, was also his first as a student assistant in the Veterans Education Program.

"My experience as an assistant has been wonderful," said Cody, who is studying communication. "I maintain contact with all of the students; I make sure that I am available to them if they need anything, inside and outside of the classroom."

As a graduate of the program, and through his role as a student assis-

tant, Cody provides important guidance to incoming student veterans.

"He has a very positive impact on the program," said Dr. Daniel Bernard, Executive Director of Continuing and Global Education. "Cody's background in the military, and with our program, allows him to connect with current students in a unique way."

In addition to taking a leadership role as a student assistant in the program, Cody also tutors and mentors current student veterans. He not only encourages students to become involved on campus and in the community, but is involved in community outreach, attending functions to represent the Veterans Education Program. Cody has also presented at military bases

For more information on the Veterans Education Program, please visit: FRESNOSTATE.EDU/CGE/VETERANS

Assembly Member Patterson presenting Jordan Cody with award: CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY'S 2017 VETERAN OF THE YEAR



“He was chosen due to his distinguished service and dedication to education for himself and his fellow veterans” ~ Bernard

throughout California, sharing his experience in the program and illustrating how it can be transformative for veterans seeking higher education.

Cody’s commitment to the program and fellow student veterans is just one reason he was chosen as the California State Assembly’s 2017 Veteran of the Year. “It’s an unbelievable feeling,” said Cody, who was honored by Assemblyman Jim Patterson at the 10th Annual California State Assembly Veterans of the Year Luncheon. “I just wanted to help other student veterans the way I was helped when I first started. I am honored and humbled by this award.”

Cody, who served three deployments in Afghanistan, has received numerous personal awards for his service, including the Combat Action Ribbon, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Valor, the Good Conduct

Medal, and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

“He was chosen due to his distinguished service and dedication to education for himself and his fellow veterans,” said Bernard of Cody’s designation.

All course sections of the Veterans Education Program are created specifically for student veterans. The program’s curriculum includes English, Math, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Introduction to the University courses, resource seminars, and a tutoring partnership with the Smitcamp Honors College. Established in 2012, the program hosts a wide-range of workshops on topics such as recognizing post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries which are available to student veterans, the Fresno State community, local veterans and their families.

In addition to an impressive selection of coursework, cohorts are involved in community outreach, including service efforts such as Toys for Tots and on-campus activities such as Vintage Days. Students in the Veterans Education Program have also participated in program-related outreach, including presentations to the Semper Fi Fund in Palm Springs and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

The program continues to grow offering educational opportunities to veterans and service members. Bernard attributes the growth of the program to past student successes and exceptional networking efforts of the program’s coordinator and participants, stating, “We are focused on an environment of support and success for our veterans and service members.”



INTERNATIONAL COFFEE HOUR COMMUNITY EXPANSION

Each semester, the International Coffee Hour highlights diversity across the Fresno State campus by inviting students, faculty, and community members to share their stories with the University. Participants in International Coffee Hour showcase their cultural experience in international service learning through informative and accessible presentations throughout the semester.

Over the course of an academic year, approximately 22 to 24 international coffee hour sessions take place and are organized and facilitated by students. The program is operated by Fresno State's International Student Services and Programs. International student advisor Jamie Jones manages the program and estimates more than 550 sessions have taken place since the program launched in 1993.

With each presentation, a unique dialogue is created, enabling listeners to ask questions to better appreciate the culture being highlighted. For almost 25 years, International Coffee Hour has provided a safe space for discussions around cultural misconceptions, moving beyond cultural barriers, and creating an overall understanding across cultures.

Jones said the goal of the program has been effective since 1993. "We have

maintained a similar mission: allowing international students or students from minority/underrepresented cultures or backgrounds to promote awareness and diversity. It encourages communication, promotes understanding of different cultures, and combats cultural social stereotypes in a friendly atmosphere where students can share their perspectives and engage in an interactive environment."





“It’s a program that allows international students or students from minority/underrepresented cultures or backgrounds to promote awareness and diversity.”

Throughout the last few years, Jones has worked to expand International Coffee Hour’s partnerships on the Fresno State campus, broadening the reach and resources available to participants each week. In fall of 2017, International Coffee Hour will increase its impact even further by hosting a series of community presentations at the Betty Rodriguez Regional Library, located near Cedar and Shields Avenues in Fresno. On four Thursdays throughout the fall, international coffee hour presented Building Bridges: An International Student’s Perspective. With each session, a different country will be highlighted, including Vietnam, Thailand, France, and India.

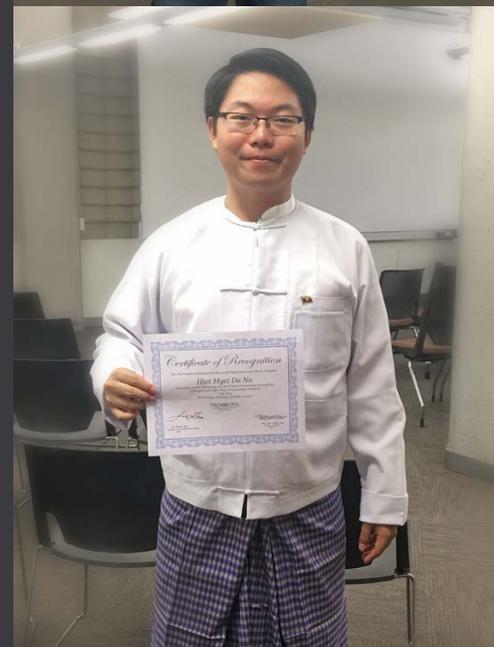
Daniel Ng is a librarian with the Sierra Gateway cluster of the Fresno County Public Library system. After being approached by Jones, Ng acted as a liaison for the Fresno County Public Libraries and the International Coffee Hour, scheduling the community series and working with the Fresno County Public Library’s

marketing department to create materials to publicize the sessions.

“I hope this program can, at least, open up a dialogue where people can learn about different countries and cultures,” Ng said. “I believe that information is always an incredibly powerful tool, and people that attend the program will have a better understanding of the countries the presenters are discussing. With a better understanding, people may also want to travel to these countries.”

The modified version of International Coffee Hour not only aligns with Fresno State’s Strategic Plan to grow and develop collaborative and engaged community partnerships, Jones said, it also provides international students with additional opportunities to engage with the community. Though the community series is smaller in scope, Jones hopes the expansion will give community members an opportunity to experience and learn about different cultures, allowing them to engage in “armchair travel.”

For more information on International Coffee Hour, please visit: FRESNOSTATE.EDU/ISSP



SARAH LAM

*Continuing and Global Education
Welcomes Sarah Lam
as Assistant Vice President of International Affairs*



Earlier this year, Dr. Sarah Lam was appointed assistant vice president of international affairs and the Senior International Officer for Fresno State. In her new role, Lam has responsibility for all campus international functions, including recruitment and admissions of inbound international students and study abroad opportunities for outbound Fresno State students.

In addition to student opportunities, Lam sees an opportunity to internationalize the campus. “I hope to see that students, staff, faculty, and administrators embrace global perspectives in their respective roles and interactions with one another,” Lam said. “Global perspectives involve a sense of awareness and appreciation of differences and similarities across cultures and nations, a sense of oneness in building a better world for oneself and others, and a sense of sharing perspectives and resources to support one another.”

Her passion and vision for international affairs are shaped by her personal previous experience as an international student. After obtaining her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Hong Kong, Lam attended Fresno State as an international student, where she earned her master’s degree in marriage, family, and child counseling. Lam

LAM CITES SEEING STUDENTS GROW, DEVELOP, AND FULFILL THEIR DREAMS AS THE TRUE HIGHLIGHT OF HER CAREER.

received her Ed.D in educational leadership from Fresno State’s joint doctoral program with University of California, Davis. Lam previously served Fresno State in the Study Abroad and International Exchange Office, an appointment leading to a study abroad experience to Spain.

With more than 20 years of experience as a Fresno State faculty member, Lam has worked in a wide range of roles, all with a common theme of education. Connecting people for mutual growth is something Lam said has become a

driving force behind her personal career goal of “transforming individuals into wholesome people.”

Reflecting on an impressive personal resume, she considers the success of others a focus of her own career. Creating new initiatives and watching their impact on campus is an important feature for Lam, in addition to bringing the good news about Fresno State abroad. Overall, though, Lam cites seeing students grow, develop, and fulfill their dreams as the true highlight of her career.



FRESNO STATE'S INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY



Offering a diverse roster of worldwide instructional programs and activities, Continuing and Global Education serves as Fresno State's international gateway. Each year, the division equips hundreds of students with the ability to study abroad and engage in cross-cultural learning.

One of the challenges students faced by students wishing to study abroad is finance. Working with the Study Abroad and International Exchanges office, Continu-

ing and Global Education offers significant funding through a variety of sources, including community gifts and endowments, revenue from the Division's Passport Place initiative, and Instructionally Related Activities, a program that helps fund out-of-class experiences integral to students' academic coursework.

In the 2017-18 academic year alone, Continuing and Global Education will award \$606,500 to assist 533 students pursuing a study abroad experience.

BY THE
NUMBERS
CONTINUING &
GLOBAL EDUCATION
SUPPORTS

STUDY ABROAD

CONTINUING
AND GLOBAL
EDUCATION
\$606,500
FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO STUDENTS
TRAVEL ABROAD

286
FUNDED BY
ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS

CGE
TRAVEL GRANT



227
FUNDED BY
PASSPORT
PLACE

CGE
TRAVEL GRANT



DIVERSITY
IN STUDY ABROAD
GRANT

12
AWARDED



SHIELDS
FAMILY GRANT

5

AWARDED
FULL RIDE

WEISE
FAMILY GRANT

3

AWARDED



PASSPORT PLACE

The Passport Place at Fresno State has quickly grown to become one of the largest passport acceptance facilities in California and serves as a front door to the University for the general

public. All proceeds from the Passport Place go directly to support students participating in international study abroad experiences via the Division's Travel Grants.

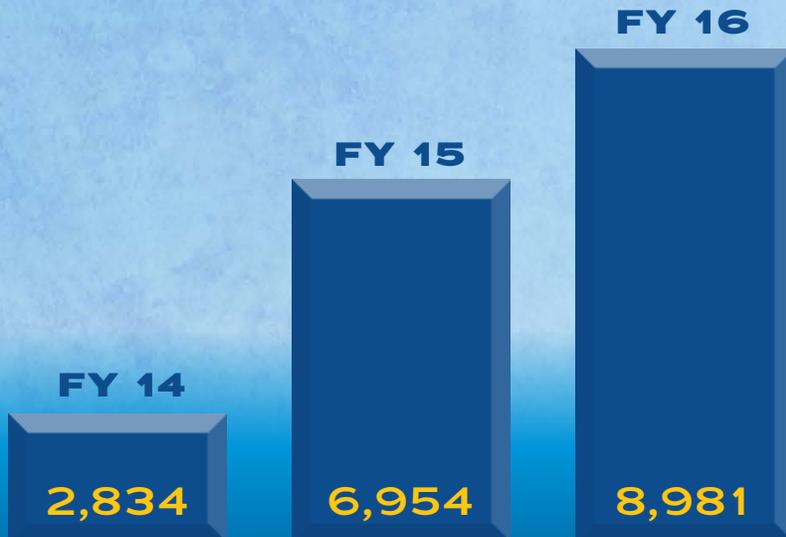
Operated by staff and student assistants from the Division of Continuing and Global Education, the facility is

certified by the U.S. Department of State and boasts 10 agents. During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Passport Place processed 8,981 passport applications, more than three times the amount processed in 2014-2015.

This year, the proceeds from the Passport Place were combined with other funding sources to guarantee student awards. With the growth of the program, the number of awards to be handed out during the 2017-2018 academic year will end up being significantly greater than in the past. The minimum value of awards also increased to \$1,000, providing even more support for students.

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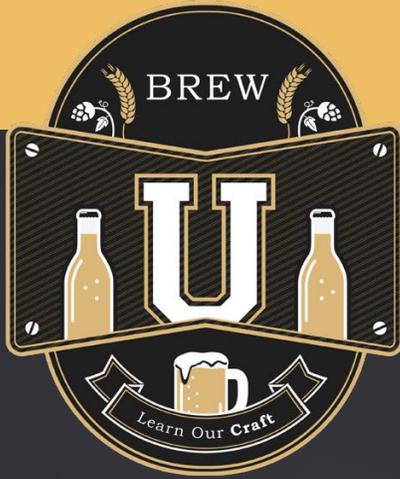


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BREW U



Since its inception in fall of 2015, Fresno State's Downtown Center has cemented itself as an impactful educational option. Located in Bitwise South Stadium, the downtown location offers a range of courses aimed at professionals, students, graduates, and community members interested in learning something new.



In April of 2017, the Downtown Center kicked off the inaugural class of the Brew U series. Craft Beer 101 – the first course in the Brew U line-up – is a non-credit professional development course covering the basics of craft beer, including styles, ingredients, and the science of fermentation. The result of a creative partnership between the Division of Continuing and Global Education and Full Circle Brewing Co., the 16 spots in the first Craft Beer 101 course were filled in less than 10 days.

Over the course of six sessions, participants learned about the history of beer in America, and the difference between craft beer and major manufacturers. Thanks to Full Circle's involvement, students had the opportunity to witness the brewing process on a commercial scale.

"After hearing that Brew U was in the works, I wanted to sign up as soon as possible," said Tucker Blagen, international student advisor with Fresno State's International Student Services and Program. "To be a part of a new class

with a local brewery and my home university seemed like an opportunity I couldn't pass up."

With downtown Fresno's beer scene experiencing significant growth, the Brew U program not only cultivates this momentum, it creates a unique educational opportunity for craft beer enthusiasts to learn more, and for those who may want to work in the craft brew industry, the ability to advance their pursuits.

"Participants get a glimpse of the industry and see that there is a place for them," said Arthur Moye, CEO of Full Circle. "Whether it's brewing, running a business, marketing, or accounting, there's a career in the craft beer industry for pretty much everybody."

The innovative program takes participants from an introduction of craft beer to the actual fermentation process with an informative six-session curriculum. In sessions one and two, students learn the fundamentals of craft beer and look at the defining features of various beer styles. The third and fourth sessions highlight key ingredients, allowing students to tune their palates by learning about different styles. In session five, students handle hops and grain during the brewing process – touching, smelling, and even tasting the raw ingredients. The last session of the class focuses on the final phase of the brewing process, looking at the science of fermentation and importance of cleaning in the brewing process.

An optional culminating experience took place in early July, coinciding with Full Circle's monthly ArtHop event. The public was invited to congratulate the inaugural class and taste the program's first product, Brew U Single Hop Series: Huell Melon.

“Whether it’s brewing, running a business, marketing, or accounting, there’s a career in the craft beer industry for pretty much everybody.”

~ Arthur Moye

“The course was good at introducing you to the history of beer and explaining the recent boom in the craft beer industry,” said Blagen. “We also got to help brew a real batch of beer on a scale way bigger than the average homebrew garage. Classmates had questions and techniques from their homebrew operations they were able to share and receive professional feedback. I have always wanted to homebrew, but never felt like I knew enough to try. After this course, I am convinced to go for it.”

With the extremely positive response to the first Craft Beer 101 class, a second cohort was launched in July 2017. There are a several opportunities to expand the current Brew U series, including the implementation of a multi-class certificate program. Continuing and Global Education and Full Circle Brewery will launch Craft Beer 201 in January 2018. For those seeking a hands-on brewing experience. After training with Full Circle's brewers, participants of Craft Beer 201 will work in teams to perfect their custom batches of beer. Teams will compete against each other, and the winning team's beer will be brewed by Full Circle. This exciting addition allows members of the community with varying levels of experience to participate in Brew U.

“Fresno State, being a CSU, has national exposure. The craft beer scene in Fresno needs an institution of that caliber to get the word out that not only Full Circle, but Fresno is brewing awesome beers,” Moye said. “Our overall goal is to have an institution in the Central Valley that will solidify the quality of craft beer that we export by offering education and certification.”



For more information on Brew U,
please visit: FRESNOSTATEDOWNTOWN.COM

COMMUNITY DONATIONS

for



Each year, more and more students set out to gain new experiences and learn about different cultures through study abroad programs. The cost of these experiences, however, can often be overwhelming. Through its mission to expand access to innovative programs, Continuing and Global Education continues to create pathways for Fresno State students to engage in impactful, international learning opportunities.



Study abroad grants funded by community donations is one way Continuing and Global Education supports international travel. Now in its second year, the Weise Family Grant enables students to travel abroad for a course relevant to their degree. A gift of \$300,000 from the Richard Weise estate was earmarked to support study abroad travel. The decision was made to endow the funding and utilize it in a truly unique way, allowing the gift to be used each year to support students.

So far, the grant has awarded three students in the 2016-2017 academic year and will award three students in the 2017-2018 academic year to study abroad. The Weise Family Grant can be applied to all study abroad programs

offered at Fresno State, with funding awarded on a need basis. Eligible students, however, cannot qualify for financial aid. Students receive \$3,500 in funding for the payment of program fees. To date, students have traveled to Viterbo and Tornino, Italy; Strasbourg, France; and Tokyo, Japan; with more upcoming trips to expand travel opportunities.

With the help of the Weise Family Grant, Connor Lilles traveled to Torino, Italy in spring of 2017. With this funding, Lilles was able to see locales throughout Italy, including Florence, Venice, and the Amalfi Coast, and had the opportunity to explore Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Ireland, and England.

Lilles said he was most surprised

with how at peace he grew to be while abroad. "It's natural for humans to be creatures of habit," said Lilles, who is studying agricultural business. "Studying abroad allowed me to escape my routine and do a lot of self-reflecting. Going abroad allowed me to appreciate the person that I have become today."

The Weise Family Grant was designed to allow campus and community members to donate for student international travel and education. Ultimately, this ensures a greater award amount every year to each student. Study abroad donors can elect how their gift is spent, whether that be awarded to students right away, over an agreed-upon period of time, or put into the endowment with funds to be awarded to students immediately as well as for future study abroad trips.



“Studying abroad helped me have a more positive outlook and become a more open-minded individual,” Lilles added. “It also helped me to step out of my comfort zone more often and try new experiences.”

There is another grant that helps students travel abroad as well. For the last two years, Fresno State students have had the opportunity to receive funding from the Shields Family Grant. Based on gifts from community donors John and Elizabeth Shields, this funding is available to University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) students who qualify for financial aid. Students taking a language course in a non-traditional country qualify for the grant, which offers full payment of program fees and travel expenses.

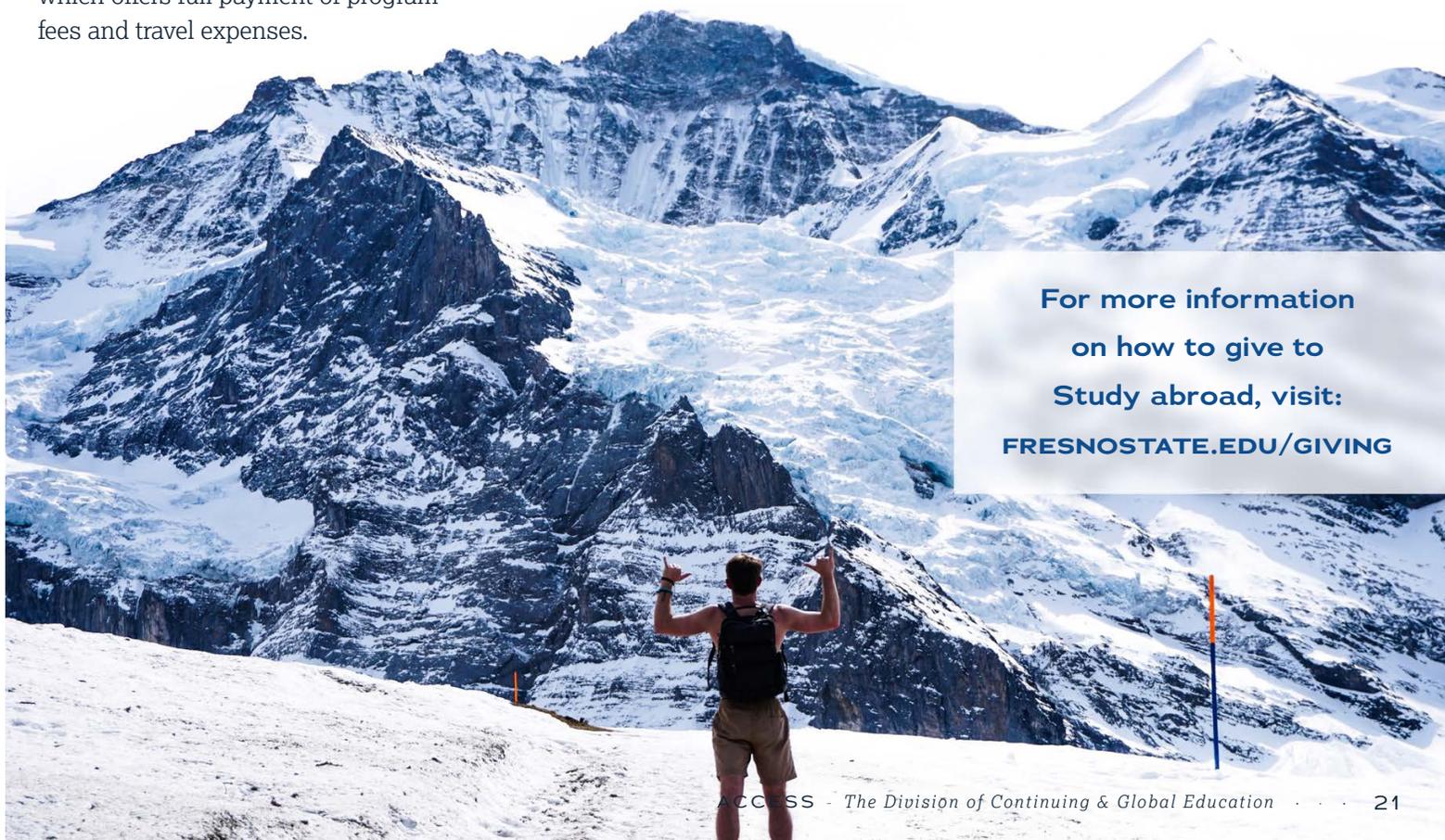
“The grant covered the cost of the entire program for USAC Reggio Emilia, Italy,” said Edith Camacho, who traveled with the funding in spring 2017. “It really took a weight off of my shoulders and I was beyond thankful for the generous help. I was struggling to save up enough money to cover the costs.”

Continuing and Global Education identifies prospective USAC students that have financial need and are participating in language-intensive programs. To date, eight students have been awarded funding through the Shields Family Grant, traveling to destinations such as Thailand, China, Spain, France, and Japan.

From 2016 - 2017, the Shields family donated \$31,000, which was matched by Continuing and Global Education to pay for USAC program fees and tuition for up to six students in the 2017-2018 academic year. The Shields family recently gifted an additional \$4,000, to be applied to a cultural experience that students otherwise would not be able to pay for while abroad.



“My study abroad experience was most definitely a life-changing experience,” added Camacho, who is studying kinesiology. “I grew tremendously as a person in a way that I probably wouldn't have been able to if I didn't go abroad. It really taught me that I should live the life that I want and to not be afraid to chase my dreams, working to get the goals I set for myself.”



**For more information
on how to give to
Study abroad, visit:
[FRESNOSTATE.EDU/GIVING](https://fresnostate.edu/giving)**

CAREER READINESS ACADEMY



In February 2017, the Division of Continuing and Global Education launched the Career Readiness Academy, a unique program offering training to underserved populations in the Fresno area. Over the course of two months, 234 free enrollments were provided to the community.

Held at Fresno State's Downtown Center, located in Bitwise South Stadium, the Career Readiness Academy targeted individuals who had previously faced economic, financial, or personal setbacks and were looking for resources to help secure new skills and employment. By engaging local community benefit organizations, Continuing and Global Education was able to reach a diverse group of community members in need and were able to have them participate in this free program.

Amanda Velasquez found out about the program through social media and was pleased to find that it provided everything she needed, from convenient scheduling to bus tokens for transportation. "There was no excuse to say, 'I can't join the program,'" Velasquez said. "I've joined programs where I had to stop attending because I couldn't afford it, or didn't have a way to get there or back home."

David Hoff, degree, certificate, and early start specialist with Continuing and Global Education, helped develop the program. Hoff said he was most surprised by the variety of people who participated in the program. "Our participants came from a number of community benefit organizations and some self-applied for the program," Hoff added. "They all had different reasons - some were college graduates who were having trouble entering the workforce, some were disabled, some were finishing treatment programs.

All of them, however, were there to learn and build better futures for themselves."

This impactful program was made possible through a \$25,000 gift from Wells Fargo. With this funding, Continuing and Global Education was able to purchase equipment, pay instructors, and additionally offer tuition for eight participants to attend Geekwise Academy, a six-week program of courses focused on coding, developing websites, and creating apps. Career Readiness Academy students were evaluated as they progressed in the Geekwise Academy program, exceptional participants received placement in as many as four Geekwise classes.

The Career Readiness Academy courses included lectures, simulated activities, and team exercises. Designed to resemble the job-search journey, participants were taken



“Participants came away with a better sense of how to succeed in a 21st-century work environment.”

~ David Hoff



Thank you to Wells Fargo for making this program possible.



234
ENROLLMENTS

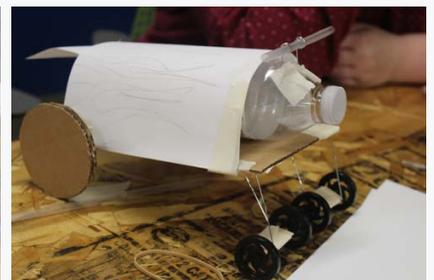
through the process of crafting an effective resume all the way to being a productive member of a team. A total of 10 workshops were offered, including project planning, solving workplace problems, creativity, public speaking, and exploring career opportunities with a limited English vocabulary.

“Participants came away with a better sense of how to succeed in a 21st-century work environment,” Hoff said of the program. “Our workshops helped them develop their ability to job search and cooperate in a workplace.”

Throughout the program, students were provided with access to a myriad of career exploration tools. In addition to open labs and skilled advisors, career assessment and planning tools were made available to participants, and were designed to help them in their search for education, training, career transition resources, and guidance on crafting a portfolio to present to potential employers.

“This experience impacted me by a lot,” Velasquez said. “It was not only an amazing growing experience, but also a super creative, well-rounded program. It expanded my mind and was a great program for the community. I will never forget or take this outstanding program for granted.”

For more information about our programs downtown, please visit: FRESNOSTATEDOWNTOWN.COM





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