

## 2007 AMERICAN HUMANICS PHILANTHROPY PROJECT PARTNERS

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**Dan DeSantis, CEO**

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The **American Humanics (AH) Program** is linked with American Humanics, Inc., a national organization that collaborates with affiliated universities, professional organizations, and non-profit agencies to educate, prepare, and certify professionals who can strengthen and lead nonprofit organizations.

**Dr. Matthew A. Jendian, Director**

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

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AH Philanthropy Project Co-coordinator: **Ashley Howard**

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<http://www.humanics.org>; <http://www.csufresno.edu/ah/>

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### Donors for Reception following News Conference

Uncle Harry's New York Bagelry (Shaw & Cedar)

FoodMaxx (5422 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno, CA 93710)

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## AMERICAN HUMANICS STUDENT PHILANTHROPY PROJECT

California State University, Fresno  
In Partnership with Fresno Regional Foundation

## COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS PRESENTATION

Monday, May 14, 2007  
Fig Garden Financial Center Courtyard  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

<http://www.csufresno.edu/ah/>

**The American Humanics Student Philanthropy Project at California State University, Fresno provides hands-on experiences in philanthropy and leadership by allowing students to develop contacts with community organizations, assess community needs, and learn how to request and evaluate funding proposals.**

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Geneva Skram*

**NEWS CONFERENCE**

**Order of Speakers**

**5:30 p.m.**

- **LINDY FOX**, senior sociology major, will introduce the evening and describe the background of the American Humanics Student Philanthropy project.
- **RACHAEL SCOTT**, graduating sociology major with American Humanics Certificate, will describe the American Humanics Program.
- **GENEVA SKRAM**, sophomore sociology major, will talk about what she learned from the process and why she's involved in the American Humanics Program.
- **DAN DESANTIS**, CEO of Fresno Regional Foundation, will briefly discuss his organization's reason for being involved in the American Humanics Student Philanthropy Project.
- **MICHELLE PORTILLO**, graduating criminology major, will present the grant awards and invite each of the grantees a chance to address the press.
- **SUSAN VANG**, junior sociology major, will broadly describe Fresno State's commitment to civic engagement.
- **SARAH CAIRNS**, graduating anthropology major with American Humanics Certificate, will wrap up the evening and thank our sponsors.

For details, contact: Dr. Matthew Jendian, Director (559-278-2891; matthewj@csufresno.edu)

**PRESS RELEASE**

**STUDENTS AWARD \$4,000 TO THREE LOCAL NONPROFITS**

On Monday, May 14 from 5:30-6:00 p.m. at Fig Garden Financial Center Courtyard (5260 N. Palm Ave.), Fresno State students enrolled in "Philanthropy and Grant Making" (Sociology 150T) awarded a total of \$4,000 to three nonprofit organizations working to improve our community. A reception followed.

Through a partnership with Fresno Regional Foundation, students enrolled in this course, an offering of the American Humanics Nonprofit Administration Program at Fresno State, were able to re-grant \$4,000 this semester and again next spring.

During a themed press conference—"SETTING THE STAGE: Youth & Families Front & Center"—students described their responsibilities during the granting process. Students began the semester investigating needs in our community, identified two focus areas for funding (Youth and Housing), researched nonprofit organizations meeting those needs, developed a request for proposals, and invited six select organizations to apply for funding. Students then evaluated and scored the proposals and oral presentations.

The students presented Rev. Sharon Stanley, Executive Director of Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries, Inc., with a check for \$2,000 to provide both "macro" and "micro" support for quality and affordable housing in Fresno, by focusing on: 1) Community Organizing training and the development of Lao and Hmong language community organizing curricula and 2) Management and support for FIRM's first affordable housing redevelopment project on Tyler Street.

Connie Clendenan, Executive Director of Valley Teen Ranch, received a check for \$1,000 to allow VTR to provide an opportunity for boys enrolled in its programs an opportunity to learn responsibility and social skills through participation in a high school prom.

Finally, the students presented Suzanne Moreno, Executive Director of Encourage Tomorrow, with a check for \$1,000 to enhance the *Las Hemanitas* (Little Sister) Mentoring Program, a component of the *La Rosa* Program at Roosevelt High School.

"I have gained hands-on experiences in philanthropy and community leadership. And, while it was challenging to evaluate and choose the best proposals, I learned what it takes for organizations to receive funding to maintain and expand their programs," said Geneva Skram, a sociology major pursuing the American Humanics Certificate.