



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY Monterey Bay SERVICE LEARNING INSTITUTE

HUD Hispanic Serving Institutions Assisting Communities (HSIAC) Program

CSU Monterey Bay Talking Points

Since 2005, CSUMB has received **\$1.8 million in grants from HSIAC** (\$600,000 in 2005; \$600,000 in 2007; and, \$600,000 in 2009) to support CSUMB's involvement in the revitalization of the most blighted urban area in our region, the Chinatown neighborhood of Salinas. Chinatown is a historically and culturally important part of Salinas, having served as home to successive waves of immigrant agricultural laborers: Chinese (1860s-1890s); Japanese (1890s-1920s); and Filipino (1930s-1950s). Since the 1970s, urban blight and decay resulted in the abandonment of most homes and businesses in the area, and Chinatown became the center for homelessness, prostitution, and illegal drug trade in our community.

HSIAC funds have been integral to the revitalization of Chinatown. Accomplishments include:

- Supported a community-wide planning process, involving over 300 diverse community members, and resulting in the creation of the *Chinatown Renewal Project*;
- Created a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, "The Salinas Downtown Community Board" to facilitate the achievement of the *Chinatown Renewal Project*;
- Leveraged over \$1 million in additional state (CalTrans), local (Salinas Redevelopment Agency) and foundation resources to support community revitalization activities;
- Created a 30,000 sq. ft. community garden, currently being cultivated by local residents, formerly homeless community members, and non-profit organizations;
- Opened the "CSUMB Chinatown Community Learning Center," providing job training and computer literacy classes, resulting in jobs and educational opportunities for formerly marginalized residents; and,
- Listing of the "Republic Café" on the National Registry of Historic Places, and its transformation into the future home of the "Salinas Chinatown Museum and Cultural Center."

Since 2005, **901 CSUMB service learning students** (Business, Science, Information Technology, Kinesiology, Museum Studies, Oral History, Global Studies, Social Sciences, Communications and Service Learning) have been involved in the project, bringing their skills, passion, and ideas to the community revitalization effort.

The *Chinatown Renewal Project* has been recognized as an outstanding example of community-university partnership. It was a finalist for the 2011 MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship (offered by the Talloires Network at Tufts University); a finalist for the 2011 Magrath University Community Engagement Award (offered by APLGU); and winner of the 2011 California Higher Education Sustainability Award for Campus-Community Partnership. In addition, the project was a featured partnership at the 2011 International Institute on Partnerships, sponsored by Portland State University.

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