

International Impact Award Recipients 2015

Dee Aker, Ph.D.

Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies

Dr. Aker's international work has designed and supported several unique international programs that contribute to international peace building. These activities include the Women Peacemakers Program, democracy building in Nepal and WorldLink. The Women Peacemakers Program, which brings to campus each fall four outstanding global leaders from conflict areas to share best practices and challenges as examples of peacemaking efforts in a wide range of countries. They now number fifty women in thirty-five countries worldwide who continue to be connected as "sisters" through e-mail and ongoing interaction with the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. Their stories are shared with campus and community so people better understand the difficulties of peace building. Dr. Aker has also applied the principles of conflict resolution and peace building for over a decade in her work in Nepal to bring awareness to citizens of how to have a voice in their government and how to settle conflict peaceably, by working with police and military as well as citizens, through hands-on workshops, training of leaders, conveyance of skills. WorldLink, is a practice-based program that provides opportunities for high school youth from San Diego and Baja Mexico to meet world leaders and experts to discuss important local and international issues. All of these innovative programs support our international mission and expand our global footprint.

Cynthia L. Caywood, Ph.D.

College of Arts and Sciences, Department of English

Dr. Caywood has been a long time supporter and developer of international opportunities for our students. Before any formal structures on campus were formed, she supported the program at St Clare's, Oxford, as well as the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Oxford and Cork providing international opportunities to our students. Almost fifteen years ago she co-founded, and has since been co-directing, USD's summer program in London. She has developed the London program into a model on how study-abroad cluster courses should function. The program allows faculty the freedom to develop curriculum that optimally connects the course content to the location, but provides a framework that reduces the amount of work for individual faculty before and during the study abroad course. Beyond these concrete achievements, Dr. Caywood has had a significant impact on the culture of study abroad at USD. As a faculty member building new programs, she has established an academic tone. The London and Oxford programs are academically rigorous and challenging, providing our students with a global education in the most intellectual sense. Her longevity and the clear success of her programs indicate that she has been a superb leader and administrator. Generations of students have benefited from her strong organization, easy demeanor, and intellectual vision. She helped build the foundation, and continues to develop, USD's internationally recognized study abroad programs.