2020 ANNUAL REPORT
The Karen and Tom Mulvaney Center
for Community, Awareness, and Social Action
It is powerful and inspiring to think of the journey that millions of butterflies make every year as they leave their home and travel thousands of miles, and face both challenges and opportunities. The metaphor of the boundless butterfly frames our report as we reflect on how the school year began, filled with opportunity, and where we find ourselves now, grappling with extraordinary challenges facing society. Yet, despite the unprecedented circumstances, students, faculty, staff, and community partners consistently and without hesitation worked selflessly on behalf of others and for their communities. However the polarity of the moment is striking as the world continues to grapple with a global pandemic and the consequences of systematic and structural racial injustice continue to manifest and disproportionately affect black, brown, and indigenous communities. Together we are witnessing and experiencing trauma and retraumatization as centuries of systemic and structural racism and oppression manifest in this moment and the world is demanding change and justice.

The team of the Mulvaney Center come to this work with different experiences and perspectives but are unified in the promise of our Center’s core mission of “learning in partnership with the community, to make life-long commitments to promote social change and justice.” We are part of a university committed to “confronting humanity’s urgent challenges,” and we are part of a community that believes in the promise of higher education. We heed the words of Bree Newsome: “The reality that to be strong in the face of oppression is not the same as overcoming oppression, that endurance is not the same as transformation.” We recognize that a strong statement is insufficient and commit to being held accountable to practicing community engagement in ways that are anti-racist and oriented towards justice.

We recognize that we have a crucial role to play in acknowledging and teaching the historical legacy of slavery and unseating an established system of white supremacy. As James Baldwin writes, “The paradox of education is precisely this - that as one begins to become conscious one begins to examine the society in which he is being educated.” Baldwin’s words and the perpetual systemic acts of injustice against Black Americans prompts deliberate action to ensure that our students are critically engaging with the community in ways that honor, value, and legitimize the beauty and wisdom of communities of color and to challenge our students to fully understand the legacy of slavery, segregation, and oppression in this country and beyond. Systemic racism is real. As part of our continued commitment to communities of color, we will continue to educate ourselves and our students so that we may better support and accompany community partners in our shared work towards justice.

As we begin to imagine how to move forward as a society and global community, our core values will continue to guide our Center: Community, Awareness and Social Action. These values are as important as ever, grounding us in the critical need to educate ourselves, acknowledge our interconnectedness, and reflect on our individual and collective call to action.

We believe, as Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” The Mulvaney Center is deeply rooted in the ideal that any individual’s freedom is bound with those who are in the margins. As Father Gregory Boyle reminds us, “our work is to widen the circle of compassion so no one lives outside that circle, because from inside the circle you have true kinship ”

With gratitude for your kinship,

The Mulvaney Team.
In 2017, after 12 years of partnership with the Duncans Community on the north coast of Jamaica, USD experienced a gap of participation leading to a 2.5 year hiatus from the partnership. Amazingly, in those two years the generative energy that was created by that 12 year partnership continued to grow and ultimately manifest deeper connections.

At USD, faculty members, John Halaka and Diane Keeling, who had participated in a community immersion trip to Duncans in 2017, saw possibilities for their students to engage with the community in new and innovative ways. Having already connected the USD Jamaica Program with the USD London Program, both Professor Halaka and Dr. Keeling were already pushing boundaries of innovative partnerships.

In Jamaica, at the Duncans All Age School, Michelle Gilizine stepped into the role of principal. 12 years earlier, when the partnership was just starting, Mrs. Gilizine was one of the young teachers that welcomed USD students into her classroom. In the span of those 12 years she was able to earn her Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership and ascend to the role of principal. Being both educated and experienced in the high impact practice of Community Engagement, Principal Gilzine was excited to welcome USD back and begin co-creating how the partnership would grow and move forward.

The USD Jamaica Program is experiencing new growth and is blooming. Seeded and nurtured by best practices of mutual reciprocity, shared history and authentic relationships; our partnership together is figuratively and literally a flourishing garden. Together, in January 2020, USD and the Duncans All Age School created, built and established an international garden that will exist in Jamaica, San Diego, London and Palestine. An international cooperative garden capable of producing food, beauty, education, connection, empathy, understanding and love.

"The garden has taught me to live, to appreciate the times when things are fallow and when they’re not.” — Jamaica Kincaid
“My favorite part of the experience was developing a student-led, solar-powered grey water system. Together, we created a program for students to research about grey water systems, team up and build viable prototypes, and present their prototypes to the school... the class would work together the following semester to build the grey water system based on that prototype. The program would be a way for students to connect climate justice issues to their community while also being part of an environmental solution.”

NICOLE MUÑOZ-PROULX, M.A., PEACE AND JUSTICE, ’20

“Professor Topher’s class was one of my favorite courses at the Kroc School! His interactive approach to teaching was unconventional, yet relevant to help students understand the importance of building partnerships within the community and analyze the impact of consumption to the environment. Having the opportunity to work with youth in Montgomery Middle School made me hopeful as students showed a great urgency to addressing issues of environmental injustices.”

HILLARY MARAVILLA, M.A., PEACE AND JUSTICE, ’20
The Impact Linda Vista Initiative (ILVI) is a course-based program designed in 2014 by the Changemaker Hub in partnership with the Mulvaney Center for Community, Awareness, and Social Action (CASA), and funded in part by a grant from US Bank. The overall purpose of ILVI is to bring USD faculty and students together with community partners to co-create and develop innovative and sustainable course-based collaborations in Linda Vista. This community engagement extends across a wide range of disciplines and academic units on campus and across multiple sectors in the community. They collectively aim to create for positive and meaningful social change.

During the Fall semester, graduate professor, Topher McDougal, and his Environmental Peace and Justice class worked with our local Montgomery STEAM Middle School in efforts to continue to build sustainability in their garden. USD’s graduate students partnered alongside teachers, students, and Montgomery’s Principal, Sarah Trueblood, to understand some of their long term vision goals for the community garden. Montgomery Middle School’s garden was built recognizing the need for environmental awareness, health, and nutrition. USD’s graduate students took on a project of mutual interest and wrote grants for the school. The grants can help cover costs for a gray-water drip system, Aquaponics system, a ADA accessible ramp leading to the garden, and a variety of environmental sustainability-related projects.

The opportunities this partnership created for students from USD and Montgomery Middle school are invaluable. USD students were able to take course work outside of the classroom and apply it to today’s environmental justice issues. Together, Montgomery Middle School and USD students explored a range of social issues pertinent to the Linda Vista community all while working together to co-create sustainable solutions for generations to come.
At USD, “local” includes the Tijuana region. USD students, staff, faculty and alumni have “lived, worked and played” in Tijuana for over 20 years, engaging in meaningful partnerships with the community. The connections have deepened over time through the longstanding work of University Ministry, Hahn School of Nursing, Mulvaney Center and the Transborder Institute, among others. Colleagues and partners across the border are an integral part of USD’s extended family.

In response to increasing cross border engagement and an invitation from Tijuana Community Partners to have a permanent USD office space in Tijuana, the Center for Peace and Commerce and the Mulvaney Center applied for and were awarded a Strategic Initiatives Grant from the University. The Grant provides one year of pilot funding for a USD Tijuana Hub (TJ Hub), a multipurpose space for USD students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners collaborating in Tijuana based work.

The TJ Hub solidifies USD’s commitment as a Binational Anchor Institution, investing financial and human resources in partnership with our neighboring community south of the border.

Set to be inaugurated December 2020, the TJ Hub will provide a space for increased engagement with community partners including nonprofits, higher education institutions, businesses, and other stakeholders. The dynamic nature of the Hub lends itself to unprecedented collaborations and projects in areas including but not limited to research, education, engineering, technology and innovation, social entrepreneurship, business, arts and culture, migration and border issues. The Tijuana Story Map, a work in progress, documents engagement from across campus in order to better understand the breadth and depth of our cross border work. This, along with stakeholder feedback sessions with community partners and the USD community will help determine the ideal location, size, layout and functionality of the TJ Hub.

We are monitoring the progression of COVID 19 in the region and any implications this may have on the timeline, operations and vision of the Hub. The Mulvaney Center, the Center for Peace and Commerce and our many campus partners are proud of the opportunity to extend USD’s mission of compassionate service and meaningful engagement beyond borders. Reach out to us if you want to get involved!
On September 5 of 2017, the Trump administration announced the rescindment of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals also known as DACA, an executive order put in place by former president Obama. Although DACA status is not a visa program nor a path for citizenship, it offers a two year protection from deportation to more than 600,000 recipients. The decision to terminate DACA brought uncertainty to migrant communities across the United States but it also united them in a shared resilience.

On November 12 of 2019, the Supreme Court began hearing oral arguments on three cases against President Trump’s decision to end protections for DACA recipients. Across the country demonstrations were organized by different groups to show support and stand in solidarity with the DACAmented community.

At the University of San Diego, students, faculty and staff gathered to participate in a Day of Action led by USD’s DACAlliance and in collaboration with MeCHA. Andrea Tecpoyotl Tepale, a sophomore student and co-chair of MeCHA explained that the Day of Action was a day to not only get informed but to stand in solidarity with DACA recipients by listening to personal stories, emphasizing the importance of voting to students who are able to exercise that right, and to simply show support to our own USD DACA and undocumented students. The Day of Action marked the day in which the Supreme Court began hearing the case on DACA and although the decision will not be provided until Spring 2020 it was important that the campus community was made aware of what was happening and the final decision will affect our own USD community.
CELEBRATING OUR TEAM
LEADING THE WAY IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CHRIS NAYVE RECEIVES CAMPUS COMPACT’S NADINNE CRUZ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Chris Nayve has been selected as one of its three winners of the 2020 Nadinne Cruz Community Engagement Professional Award. This impactful award for Nayve celebrates the ethical leadership and advocacy demonstrated by community engagement professionals. Nayve, who was born in the Philippines, is one of three recipients of the Nadinne Cruz Award, but his reaction upon learning he’d received an award named for Cruz, a pioneering Filipina community engagement leader at Stanford and beyond, was one of personal pride.

MARIA SILVA RECEIVES CALIFORNIA CAMPUS COMPACT’S CONE AWARD AS EMERGING LEADER

Maria Silva has been recognized for her outstanding community work by the California Campus Compact, as the 2020 recipient of the California Richard E. Cone Award for Emerging Leaders in Community Engagement. The award honors an exemplary early-career individual who is an emerging leader community engagement, whose work has had a positive impact on campus and in the community and who is guided by best practices of community-campus partnerships.

AUSTIN GALY SELECTED AS 2019-20 ENGAGED SCHOLARS INITIATIVE (ESI) PARTICIPANT

The Western Region Campus Compact has announced Austin Galy as one of 13 faculty and community engagement professionals. The Engaged Scholars Initiative (ESI) is aimed at developing, supporting, and connecting leaders from member institutions within the states representing Western Region Campus Compact who can advance co-created knowledge, critically engaged pedagogies, models of institutional change, and collaborative action that addresses societal issues.
BY THE NUMBERS
A CLOSE LOOK AT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OVER 100
Faculty Members

6,828
Student Members

OVER 148
Community Partners

416,341
Total Hours

*These figures include faculty, staff, and students who actively participate in multiple community engagement activities throughout the academic year.
Campus Partners
- Admissions
- Athletics
- BRINK
- Career Development Center
- Center for Educational Excellence
- Center for Inclusion and Diversity
- Changemaker Hub
- College of Arts and Sciences
- Community and Government Relations
- Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science
- Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives
- Institutional Research and Planning
- International Center
- Jacobs Center
- Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies
- Living Learning Communities
- Non-Profit Institute
- NROTC
- Office of Sustainability
- Procurement Services
- School of Business
- School of Law
- School of Leadership and Education Sciences
- Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering
- Student Affairs
- Student Employment
- Student Support Services
- The Brink
- University Ministry

Community Partners
- Access Community Center
- Alameda Point Collaborative
- Alma Migrante
- Al Otro Lado
- American Indian Recruitment Programs
- Barrio Logan College Institute
- Border Angels
- Boys and Girls Club
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network
- Carson Elementary School
- Casa del Migrante
- Chesterton Elementary School
- Civic San Diego
- Dreamers Moms
- Ebenezer Church
- El Cajon Boulevard Improvement Association
- El Faro Church
- Empower Charter School
- Espacio Migrante
- Friends of Friendship Park
- Fundacion GAIA
- Granville Child Development Center
- Hugo Sanchez Foundation
- Include Autism
- Innovation Law Lab
- Jewish Family Service
- Kearny High School
- Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility
- Kit Carson Elementary School
- Linda Vista Boys and Girls Club
- Linda Vista Elementary School
- Linda Vista Library
- Linda Vista Teen Center
- Mission Valley YMCA
- Montgomery Middle School
- New Americans Museum
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
- Pedacito de Cielo
- Pro Kids Golf
- Reality Changers
- Saint Mary’s College of California
- San Diego Blind Community Center
- San Diego Cooperative Charter School
- Scouts de Tijuana
- Somali Family Service
- Templo Embajadores de Jesus
- Thrive Charter School
- Urban Corps
- Via International
- YALLA

Networks and Affiliations
- Anchor Learning Community
- California Campus Compact
- Campus Compact
- Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement
- Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU)
- Place-Based Justice Network
- The International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE)
MULVANEY CENTER TEAM

Christopher Nayve
Associate Vice President
for Community Engagement
and Anchor Initiatives

John Loggins
Director, Community
Engaged Learning

Maria Silva
Director, Neighborhood
and Community Engaged
Partnerships

Austin Galy
Assistant Director, Student
Leadership and Learning

Sandra Sgoutas-Emch, PhD
Campus Compact
Scholar in Residence

Jocelyne Olguin
Program Coordinator

Kevin Guerrieri, PhD
Associate Professor, Spanish

Judith Liu, PhD
Faculty Liaison and Professor

Ian Philabaum
Director of Border Programs,
Innovation Law Lab

Luis Guerra
Strategic Capacity Officer,
Catholic Legal Immigration
Network

Jaime Rivera
Executive Assistant

Alvin Seepaul
Office Administrator

Colton Strawser
Doctoral Research Assistant

Janet Nguyen
Graduate Assistant

Alejandra Ramirez
Graduate Assistant

Laura Rivera
Graduate Assistant

Daisy Martinez
Americorps Vista

Viridiana Quintana
Americorps Vista at Access
Community Center

Angela Leal
Americorps VISTA at Via
International

VISTA MEMBERS AND 2019-20 STUDENT LEADERS

AmeriCorps
VISTA Members
Viridiana Quintana
Daisy Martinez
Angela Leal

Youth Engagement
Initiative
Edgar Chavarria
Nina Schneider
Elaine Talley
Bianca Gargicevich-Almeida
Erin Lindsay
Soledad Parra
Isabelle Gehrs
Gaby Rivera
Justin Olivares
Yarissa Valdez

MacDonald Scholars
Madonna Connors
Melissa Arana
Isabelle Gehrs
Valerie Jaimes
Yarissa Valdez
Fanisee Bias
Kapri Tulang-De Silva
Emily Fonseca
Brianna Jacome
Miguel Santana
Daniela Anton

Beyond Borders
Kevin Sierra
Alejandra Perez
Daniel Rodriguez

Jesenia Villasenor
Alyssa Herarra
Leslie Martinez
Carla Aguirre-Puerto
Ana Trejo Aguilar
Andrea Tecpoyotl Tepale
Jesse Magana

Partners
Anais Rivera
Diana Robles
Hannah Rouret-Valencia
Sofia Torres
Kimberly Riveros
Alexandra McGagin
Kaya Agustin