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CAVE Newsletter - Winter 2020



Welcoming Our New Director

By Veronica Sanchez

As students and faculty members were settling into school during the fall semester, Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE) had a great kick off to the 2019–20 academic year! Our leadership team was excited and prepared to tackle what the semester has in store with our new director Keith Crawford. Keith received his BS in parks, recreation and tourism management at North Carolina State University. Later in 2012, he earned his MA in college student development at Appalachian State University. Shortly after, Keith relocated to Chico as the program coordinator of Adventure Outings. He was well-suited for Adventure Outings since his hobbies and interests include running, hiking, and camping with his dogs and fiancée. With years of experience and involvement on campus, it's been an absolute pleasure to have Keith appointed as CAVE's new director. [Read more.](#)



Make A Difference Day

By Veronica Sanchez

On October 26, 2019, students from Chico State and Butte College along with hundreds of other community members came together for Make a Difference Day—Butte County (MDDBC). Its purpose is to bring people from all over together as they volunteer to complete various service projects around the community. Make a Difference Day is a national annual event celebrated on the fourth Saturday of October since 1992, emphasizing community service and volunteerism. CAVE took part in bringing our local community and other organizations together to participate in this national movement. [Read more.](#)



Super Star Volunteers

By Veronica Sanchez

CAVE would like to highlight some of our fall semester superstar volunteers! These volunteers were chosen because of their positive energy and ability to not just meet expectations but exceed them. Each were attracted by CAVE's huge presence on campus, in the community, and the organization's ability to offer a variety of diverse programs in which each volunteer was able to find their perfect match.

Our first superstar volunteer, **Hikmat Abou Shahla**, participated as a classroom aide volunteer this semester. As he transitioned from life in Lebanon to Chico State, CAVE gave Hikmat the opportunity to make Chico his home. CAVE also gave him the ability to meet new people who share similar interests. Initially, he gravitated towards our Classroom Aide program because it supports young kids that reminded him of his younger brother, Ghadi, who lives back home in Lebanon. While volunteering, he made goals to teach kids a new way of learning, ways that can help them enjoy school and look forward to attending. The highlight of Hikmat's experience was being greeted every morning by students when he walked into their class. Hikmat said, "Classroom Aide can be a great fit for you if you are willing to be a teacher or a professor because it provides you with the necessary skills to adapt to a classroom of talented younger kids!"

Our next superstar volunteer is **Taylor MacAndrew** from our Community Outreach Ambassadors (COA) program. She spent the semester volunteering at the Esplanade House, which places an emphasis on helping children recover from the trauma of homelessness. Taylor said, "I was attracted to CAVE because I have been wanting to spend time volunteering, and I wanted to have an impact on the kids as they are at an impressionable age." The highlight of her experience was helping two children work out their problems as she used her own experiences as advice, teaching and helping them come to their own conclusions. Program group leader Gemma Licata said, "Taylor brings such a positive energy with her when she's here, and we all notice it! I chose her as a superstar volunteer because of her kindness towards the kids and her determination to help out and always being there for them." Although Taylor's graduating this semester, she encourages others to join COA because there is a value in interacting with kids as you are volunteering, you have the chance to see the impact you have on their lives.

Our last superstar volunteer is **Yesenia Pineda** from our community program Senior Circle, where volunteers conduct activities and play games with groups of senior citizens in various residential care facilities. Yesenia chose Senior Circle because she loved spending time with her grandmother before she passed. The program gave her the opportunity to spend time with senior citizens that are no longer active participants in our society. She enjoys volunteering because she feels recognized and loved for her participation. The highlight of her semester was being able to help the seniors work through their weekly activities and the residents expressing their excitement for the next week. Yesenia encourages others to volunteer, she said, "CAVE is a wonderful place to start a new beginning in growth, self-awareness, and community care." Being a college student is a lot of work, but Yesenia pushes forward and sheds light on her experiences at CAVE, proving that volunteering takes time but it is never an inconvenience to expand your coordination, teamwork, and goodwill.

With being the largest and oldest student-led organization on campus, CAVE would not be what it is today without the hard work and dedication of its volunteers. By offering 10 diverse programs, we strive to help each volunteer find a program they love to participate in, while giving them the ability to learn and grow along with those they help.



A Fond Farewell to Ann Schwab

By Anthony Mendoza

Compassion, dedication, and community involvement are just a few ways to define a well-rounded person. In CAVE, our staff lead by example and conquer any given task with ease and poise. Ann Schwab has proven her immeasurable capabilities over the past 20 years, and she will be missed now that she retired at the end of the fall semester. Ann is approachable and loving with a charismatic charm that allowed her to accomplish many historical milestones while working with CAVE.

Community connections director Alexandra Wynter said, "She made it a point to know everyone and have conversations with each of us." Further extending on Ann's outreach and connection with her fellow student staff, "She's dedicated her time to ensure student voices are heard," she said. "She also makes sure we provide the community with volunteers."

Ann has also been credited for our famous motto, "Life is for Learning," and has helped create a consistent system that helps us operate here at CAVE.

[Read more about Ann's retirement.](#)



The Concow Rebuild

By Veronica Sanchez

Weekend Wildcat volunteers met up on October 12, 2019, to help restore the Concow Community Garden. After the Camp Fire tragedy on November 8, 2018, many common community areas were burned, including the Concow campground, which houses the Concow Community Garden.

Chico State students were led by Jenny Lowery, a member of the nonprofit organization From the Ground Up Farms. The Concow Rebuild was one of the biggest

events that Lowery's team has set up thus far, and the turnout was greatly appreciated.

[Read more.](#)



Adopt-A-Park Lands Sustainability Grant!

By Anthony Mendoza

At the end of the fall semester, our volunteers and program coordinators for Adopt-a-Park celebrated their latest grant approval from the Sustainability Fund Allocation Committee! Program leader Hana Koyama led Adopt-a-Park to their victory by working collaboratively with program coordinator Cathryn Carkhuff.

Hana and Cathryn worked hard to revise the program by adding new concepts and ideas that will be beneficial to students. Hana's background in soil sciences allowed her assets to shine through and renovate the entire program. Adopt-a-Park focuses mainly on removal of invasive species, which sparked Hana's idea of planting more native species in Chico. "We wanted to figure out what to do to make Adopt-a-Park better and more applicable to CAVE's mission statement," she said. [Read more.](#)



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