At the UHD Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, we strive to connect our students with opportunities to learn and grow in the greater Houston community. We believe that allowing students to participate in community activities and develop creative solutions to community issues benefits students’ ultimate ability to think critically about the world around them. We accomplish this through academic and co-curricular community engagement activities as well as by offering a wide variety of service learning course options each semester.

**Service Learning**

- **85** Sections Taught
- **14** Faculty awarded SL grants
- **1516** Students enrolled in SL courses
- **17925** Hours service performed by SL students

**Grantees**

**Student-Led Community Engagement Grants**
- Thomas Canny, Jasmine Major, and Ignasio Hernandez
- Beatrice Cerda and Betty Cruz
- Heather Echols and Kristen Shuck
- Michael Martin and Amanda Howard
- Anibeth Tucios
- Stephanie Riva, Van Longoria, and Selena Garcia
- Jessica Plascencia-Delgado, Eduardo Gil, and Jesse Uppal

**Staff-Led Community Engagement Grants**
- Dr. Mary Jo Parker and Mitsue Nakamura
- Cora Battle
- Vivian Smith and Dr. Jerry Wallace
- Dr. Leslie Woodard

**Service Learning Faculty Grants**
- Dr. Nina Barbieri, Cl 3306
- Susan Beane, Math 1310
- Dr. Maria Bhattacharjee, PED 3314
- Dr. Jonathan Chism, HIST 4390
- Dr. Hong Lin, CS 5310
- Meghan Minard, UHD 1303
- Dr. Laura Mitchell, READ 3317 & PED 3314
- Dr. Mesias Pedroza, BIOL 1310, BIOL 1101, CHEM 4140 & BIOL 1102

**Service Learning Grants**

CCESL awards small grants to faculty through a competitive process in order to carry out Service Learning projects.

- Dr. Mary Jo Parker, NS 2190 & UHD 2303
- Dr. Judith Harris, Cl 4370
- Zeenat Mitha, COMM 2311
- Rhonda Scherer, HEA 4302
- Dr. Ashwin Tiwari, PED 3301

**Community Engagement Grants**

Community Engagement Grants are awarded to UHD students and staff each semester to encourage the UHD community to continue their engagement efforts. Applicants must propose a project that has a positive impact in their community. The granting process includes requests for a detailed budget, a thoughtful project plan and assessment considerations. The Community Engagement and Service Learning Committee reviews all applications and determines each semester’s grantees.

**Cultural Explorations**

CCESL hosted the first UHD Cultural Explorations event in the fall 2017 semester. The event showcased the Islamic culture through dance, prayer, food, a speakers’ panel, and an art exhibition. More than 100 people attended the event, including students, faculty, staff, and community members.

**Buffalo Bayou Service Project**

The annual BBSP event was held in the spring of 2018. The event hosted 111 students from four area high schools. Many UHD faculty and students volunteered for the event to help make it a success. In addition to learning about the bayou, students got to take a boat ride along Buffalo Bayou.

**Community Engagement Showcase**

Each year, CCESL and the CTLE co-host an academic showcase of UHD faculty, students, and staff work in community engagement and other HIPs. This year’s showcase featured student and staff community engagement grant projects, and two SL faculty presentations about their courses and projects.
Mariana Grijalva named UHD 2018-19 Newman Civic Fellow

Campus Compact, which works to advance the public purposes of higher education, selected 268 students from around the country, including the UHD’s very own Mariana Grijalva, to participate in a program that emphasizes personal, professional and civic growth.

As a Newman Fellow, Grijalva plans to focus on raising awareness about environmental hazards in immigrant communities by working with UHD’s Sustainability Coordinator, who interacts with the University community to provide knowledge, skills and motivation to integrate sustainability into strategic planning, and student-directed activities of the college. Grijalva also has in the works a partnership with Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services, in addition to a documentary to be filmed in the East End of Downtown that focuses on air pollution affecting low-income areas.

Community Engagement Summer Internships

During summer 2018, 30 UHD student interns ranging from freshmen to seniors participated in Community Engagement Summer Internships at local non-profit agencies. Over 100 students applied for the positions which were funded through a combination of Texas State Legislature funds, Harvey relief funds, and a gift from UHD President Dr. Munoz.

The internships, which related to students’ academic fields, were an overall success and gave way to the beginning of the Community Engagement Work Study Internship program for the fall 2018 and spring 2019 semesters.

GatorServe at Martin Luther King Jr Day 2018

To celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and honor his memory on this National Day of Service, 72 volunteers gathered together to perform service projects in the Near Northside neighborhood. This UHD Day of Service became the first ever GatorServe event. The volunteers were comprised of UHD students, staff, alumni, faculty and community members.

Volunteers were joined by UHD President, Dr. Dr. Juan Sánchez Muñoz and City Councilor Karla Cisneros who joined them in the morning and helped to set the tone for the day.

Community Service Abroad: Ecuador

The Study Abroad Office and CCESL together launched an Alternative Spring Break – Service Abroad trip over the 2018 Spring Break. Thirteen UHD students ranging from freshmen to graduate student participated in UHD’s first such endeavor.

Over the week, participants planted indigenous trees on farms outside of Nono, Ecuador; worked with children at local non-profit, Casa Saber Pega Full; visited local barrios to talk with families about government-supported programming for children; collaborated with residents of Chavezpamba to help turn their produce into higher-value goods; planted native trees in the Amazon jungle with the indigenous people of La Libertad; and planted and harvested corn, cocoa and other produce with the Kichwa women at the Sinchi Warmi ecododge.

The trip was an overall success, and the two UHD departments look forward to providing UHD students with more opportunities like this one!