CCREC is a multi/transdisciplinary and collaborative effort to address the state’s interconnected crises in the economy, education, employment, environment, health, housing, and nutrition. CCREC is a University of California multi-campus research program initiative that links university researchers, community-based organizations, and policy-makers in collaborative projects to achieve creative solutions to the problems in our communities. It is also part of CCREC’s mission to prepare a new generation of engaged scholars.

Research Projects on Issues of Vital Importance to California

An Independent Study Course Sponsored by the UC Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California

California is in an unprecedented state of flux facing many major crises. The state’s water infrastructure is highly vulnerable, and there are many other environmental challenges. Access to affordable quality education is under threat. The state budget seems to be in perpetual fiscal crisis. Unemployment is high and persistent. Yet California continues to be a leader in agriculture, technology, and innovation. With a highly diverse working immigrant population, California represents a microcosm of the world. Many problems gripping California are symptomatic of similar problems occurring in various parts of the world, and the better we can understand California issues the more likely we are to find equitable state and global level solutions.

“Research Projects on Issues of Vital Interest to California” is an opportunity for undergraduate students at UCSC from any discipline to carry out a research project on a topic of their interest under the supervision and mentorship of a UCSC faculty member during Winter 2012 with the possibility of continuation for an additional quarter during Spring 2012.

The course will require a combination of various activities: conducting literature searches, connecting with scholars/experts/research centers, identifying major themes related to individually and group chosen topics, preparing a condensed brief (500 words or less) on a topic, identifying appropriate data supporting or complementing the brief, and creating graphics (in collaboration with other team members) to illustrate or expand upon the themes. Knowledge of mapping software, such as ArcInfo, is a plus. The final product will be approximately 2 pages of text and graphics on the research topic, with additional pages of glossary, bibliography, and supporting data.

If interested, please submit the following via email to Prof. Suresh Lodha, Computer Science (Lodha@soe.ucsc.edu):

Subject line: “California Class”

Body: (i) Name, (ii) Undergraduate (or graduate), major, freshman/sophomore/junior/senior etc., (iii) ONE class (or field experience) most relevant to the proposed project: class number, title, when taken, where, name of instructor, (iv) in 100 words or less, why you are interested and/or what topics are most interesting to you and why? (v) (optional) any questions/concerns.

5 Units of Ind.Study
3 weekly hours of meeting time with professor
10-12 weekly research hours and/or team meetings
Meeting times to be determined by students
Graduate Students are also very welcome. You will have the opportunity to carry out deeper research more quickly. Those who are willing may also find opportunities to mentor your junior colleagues.