Some question the “equity-oriented” nature of CCREC’s work, and ask whether it is appropriate for scholarship to have this sort of ethical and political responsibility. They worry that CCREC’s research violates the university’s traditional commitments to disinterested scholarship and neutrality in the public sphere. But if we return to the university’s roots, we discover that we are on solid ground.

The University of California was founded in 1868 pursuant to the federal 1862 Morrill Land Grant Act meant to create colleges for “agriculture and the mechanic arts” and to foster the development of an enlightened democratic citizenry. Thus from the beginning, the university intended its scholarship to meet the intellectual and economic needs of farmers and the working class, not only to develop the modes of thought and expression of the managerial and ruling classes.

Generations of Californians reaffirmed this founding commitment to the public purpose and common good of university scholarship through their self-taxation to insure both the highest quality of research and the broadest possible access to the university. Yet in recent decades, we have witnessed a deep erosion of this commitment, and now the state provides barely more than 10% of the university’s funding while tuition and fees have risen dramatically.

In the national discourse about the purpose of education, market mechanisms now predominate, so education is shaped to facilitate the individual pursuit of private goods. University costs are shifted onto student ‘customers,’ which results in much higher, and often unmanageable, debt loads for students. Policies that enact this privatized view of the university exacerbate numerous inequities, and place the heaviest burdens on already disadvantaged communities. Moreover, they reinforce barriers between the university and the communities most in need of its support and knowledge production.

Given these national trends, it can indeed seem odd for a University of California research center to focus its attention on the needs of the least advantaged, and to focus its efforts toward public rather than private goods. But we believe that our approach not only revives the core mission of the university, but also helps to reassert the importance of equality alongside liberty so that the institutions
Message from the Director

Continued from Page 1.

of our democracy are imbued with the legitimacy they require. Some goods and some institutions are simply too important to be left to the machinations of markets, and the university has an obligation to those very principles that should not be subject to market forces. The warrants for truth claims and the ethical standards required by justice are not to be accepted or rejected based on their market values.

The commitment to an equity-orientation for our collaborative research marks a determination to contribute to strengthening democratic traditions and to building capacities within the least advantaged communities so that individuals can improve their lives and be full participants in solving the challenges we face as a state and as a nation. In the current debates about how to respond to the growing inequities in quality education, basic health care, nutritious food, affordable housing, and meaningful jobs, the low-income, racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse communities that are most disadvantaged have little voice.

Yet these same communities possess forms of knowledge crucial to understanding the inequities and to formulating effective responses to them. Thus CCREC’s equity-oriented collaborative community-based research can generate more justified findings and more powerful policies; it can also amplify the voices and expand the civic engagement of marginalized communities.

CCREC’s committed interests in equity, in a civically engaged university, and in a strengthened democracy, produce a form of research that can improve democratic deliberations themselves. From our roots as a land grant public university to our branches that reach toward a more just and democratic future, CCREC believes that our equity-oriented collaborative community-based research yields significant gains and fulfills the core missions of the university.

Ron Glass

Ron Glass, Ph.D.
CCREC Director/PI
Associate Professor of Philosophy of Education
U.C. Santa Cruz
Acting Associate Director,
U.C. Center for Information Technology Research in the Interests of Society, Data and Democracy Initiative (CITRIS-DDI)

CCREC Highlights

In its third year of operations, CCREC continues to grow and make significant progress towards its goals.

CCREC is forging new partnerships and growing our network and staff to better support equity oriented collaborative research across the state and beyond.

CCREC now has 36 Fellows, including UC scholars in the social sciences, public health, education, the humanities, and computer science and representing nine UC campuses. See http://ccrec.ucsc.edu/people/fellows.

Eleven prominent state and national leaders drawn from research universities, community organizations, and policy makers have agreed to serve a 2 - 4 year term on the CCREC Advisory Board. See page 5 for a complete list and the CCREC website for more details (http://ccrec.ucsc.edu/people/advisory-board).

CCREC welcomes four new staff members to the team. Emily Lehr-Anning is our new graduate student researcher, providing general research support. Two new undergraduate student researchers, Matt Goff and David Orozco, provide support around CCREC’s outreach efforts. Krisa Bruemmer is CCREC’s new Administrative Coordinator. See http://ccrec.ucsc.edu/people/staff.

CCREC has formed a strategic partnership with the Data and Democracy Initiative of the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interests of Society (CITRIS-DDI), a UC multicampus research unit that works closely with industry and government agencies to develop technological solutions to pressing societal problems. The headquarters of CITRIS is housed at UC Berkeley, and they work collaboratively with UC Davis, UC Merced, and UC Santa Cruz. CITRIS-DDI’s mission is to “build tools to foster public engagement for the people of California and around the world.” Through this partnership, CCREC and CITRIS-DDI are exploring potential collaborative research projects and funding opportunities. CCREC Director, Ron Glass, is currently serving as the Acting Associate Director of CITRIS-DDI.

CCREC has also become involved in a national network of engaged scholars, Urban Research-Based Action Network (URBAN), housed at the MIT Co-Lab. With the support of Sage Publications and the Miller-McCune Center for Research, Media and Public Policy, URBAN is committed to “articulating and strengthening collaborative methods and impact, sharing findings, raising the visibility, developing career pathways and increasing the acceptance within the academy, of community-based research. URBAN will create physical and virtual spaces where thinkers of all stripes, academic and non-academic, can explore, debate and share lessons, with the ultimate goal of becoming both a robust source of new scholarly work, and, by leveraging publications such as MillerMcCune Magazine, a powerful resource for making policy proposals broadly accessible to an increasingly knowledgeable and activated citizenry.” CCREC is working with a Northern California “node” to develop programs that provide a unique support structure for engaged scholars and community-based organizations and open opportunities for collaboration.

CCREC held its first annual research conference: “Strategies for an Equitable California.”

On September 28th and 29th in Berkeley, CCREC-funded project PIs and some of their community partners gathered to report on their project progress and share research findings with each other, the CCREC Governance Council, and the CCREC Advisory Board. The conference provided a great opportunity for those supported by CCREC planning and development grants to get feedback and make connections with other engaged scholars. For project descriptions, see http://ccrec.ucsc.edu/projects/funded.

Highlights Continued on Page 5
CCREC welcomes Rev. Daniel A. Buford to the Advisory Board. As the only Reverend on the Advisory Board, Buford contributes a unique religious perspective to CCREC in addition to a great diversity of talent and breadth of experience. The scope of Buford’s interests and capabilities range from the creative to the practical and don’t end there. He is an artist, a writer, a community organizer, a public speaker, and an involved Reverend. As the Director of the Prophetic Justice Ministry at the Allen-Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, Buford balances his time between the local, the national, and even the global when it comes to helping those in need and striving for a more just and sustainable society.

In terms of the local, Buford has spent the last twenty-four years at Allen-Temple, engaging in work that includes designing the social justice curriculum, teaching classes on community organizing, and leading community development and empowerment projects in Oakland and the Northern California Bay Area. While serving as Executive Director of the Ecumenical Peace Institute, he conducted a feasibility study in an urban wetlands environment that led to the creation of the “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Park” in Oakland. He also served on a community accountability task force that monitored USS Missouri Home-Porting and the clean up of military and industrial toxic wastes in Hunter’s Point Naval Ship Yard in San Francisco.

Moving beyond local concerns, from 1980 to 2008, Buford was a founding organizer with the People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond based in New Orleans, developing and conducting “Undoing Racism” workshops throughout the United States, South Africa, Japan and Puerto Rico. Following Hurricane Katrina, Buford presented a summary of concerns regarding human rights violations in the aftermath of the disaster to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. In 2010, Buford spoke before the California State Assembly and Senate regarding ACR 129, a resolution that now requires the State of California to file human rights reports in accordance with United States treaty obligations in the United Nations. Buford is also President of the Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute, a peace and justice law think tank located in Berkeley. He is the Vice President of the Communities for a Better Environment organization based in Los Angeles, the Program Director of the Emerging Leaders Program at Allen Temple, and a Steering Committee member for the East Oakland Building Healthy Communities Initiative.

This, however, does not encapsulate the full extent of Buford’s many talents. Buford is also an accomplished wood sculptor whose work has been on exhibit in museums and galleries in San Francisco, New Orleans, New York City, Cincinnati, Minneapolis, and at Stanford University.

When it comes to motivation, Buford couples his diverse and multifaceted talents with religious devotion. Buford calls himself a “policy analyst for the Lord,” and he is guided by a powerful lifelong moral and religious compass that makes him stand out in every context.

Continued on Page 5.
CCREC welcomes professor George Lipsitz to the Governance Council. Lipsitz is a professor of Black Studies and Sociology at UC Santa Barbara. Currently, he is working on a CCREC funded research project called “Immigrant Women Workers and Social Change: The Community Transformational Organizing Strategy of Asian Immigrant Women.” The project partners with Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA), a community based organization that works to promote leadership amongst low wage and limited English speaking women. Lipsitz’s project evaluates, measures, and learns from the community organizing and leadership development activities of AIWA that other organizations might replicate and that scholars might use to construct general theories about community organizing and the promotion of grassroots leadership.

Why get involved with CCREC? What do you hope to accomplish with your involvement at CCREC?

At UC, Santa Barbara we have long been committed to blending the best of campus and community knowledge. The leadership of Melvin Oliver as Dean of Social Science and the exemplary work of our late colleague, Clyde Woods, have taught us about the importance of engaged scholarship that helps solve the problems facing the people of California. Today, many of our most important problems stem from the ever widening wealth gap and its devastating effects on people’s aspirations and hopes. Equity and fairness are not simply moral abstractions; they are qualities that characterize successful and happy societies.

More specifically, what mission or goal will CCREC help you to carry out and how will being on CCREC’s Governance Council help you get there?

By working across campuses and communities, across disciplines and different levels of education, across regions and religions, CCREC brings diverse groups people together for collaborative and constructive work. Its projects promote the kinds of deliberative talk and face-to-face decision making that can help us craft more decent, dignified, and democratic lives. Serving on the CCREC Governance Council makes me aware of the important campus and community research being conducted by people associated with the UC system. It enables me to see that people without formal education or advanced degrees are asking and answering important questions about the environment, the educational system, and the economy, and that scholars need to be in dialogue with them. It allows me to participate in discussions and deliberations about how a more equitable California can be created.

What specifically do you spend your time doing while working on this CCREC-funded project?

The work that Jennifer Chun and I do as researchers is to advise AIWA about how the CTOS model compares and contrasts with approaches by other social movement groups and to convey AIWA’s ideas and evidence about its membership to scholars to help change prevailing research paradigms. Jennifer Chun has conducted surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions with AWIA members. Chun and I have worked with AIWA Executive Director, Young Shin, to set up meetings where AIWA members explain the CTOS model to scholars and to other social movement groups. Chun and I have set up a panel of scholars committed to advising AIWA and doing research about the place of grass roots leadership development in social movement theory.

A big part of the project involves social science theory about social movements. What have you found so far that complicates, contradicts, or augments social science theory?

Social movement theory sometimes emphasizes the importance of charismatic leaders, centralized decision making by experts, and deployment of organizational resources. The CTOS model promotes collective grassroots deliberation and decision making, views leadership more as identifying problems of mutual concern, and acting on them rather than presiding at meetings, giving public speeches, or giving orders. Some social movement theorists think it is imperative for movement groups to frame their actions to fit with the dominant values in society, but AIWA’s emphasis on developing the long term capacity for leadership among limited-English speaking, low wage, immigrant, women workers seeks to change the dominant values not fit into them.

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CCREC Highlights

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CCREC continues to incubate its first regional “Signature Project.”

CCREC established core design principles for regional Signature Projects that will embody best practices and become long-term laboratories for testing the efficacy of equity-oriented collaborative research.

The inaugural Signature Project, centered on young adult civic engagement in Central California (from the eastern border of the central San Joaquin valley to the central coast counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito), builds on deep connections among CCREC Faculty Fellows and youth and young adult leaders, community-based organizations, and policy makers. In Merced in January, CCREC convened an initial “incubator” meeting to identify issues and build relationships. The second convening was held in Santa Cruz in July.

A proposal for a five-year strategic partnership is emerging with a focus to increase young adult civic engagement through leadership capacity building and expanded activities in various sectors of the public sphere, as well as through expanded voter registration and electoral participation.

Plans are underway for another meeting in Stockton in early 2013.

Additional Signature Projects will be incubated with other regional groupings of faculty, organizations, and policy makers who will determine the specific foci while building from the core design principles.

CCREC offers several funding opportunities for UC faculty and doctoral students.

Grants of up to $15,000 are available to support the crucial early stages of collaborative research projects that show significant promise of securing extramural funding for their implementation phase. These seed grants are intended for UC faculty working at the intersections of CCREC issue areas and utilizing collaborative research methods. The next RFP will be released in January.

CCREC is accepting applications for travel awards of up to $500 to support early career researchers and doctoral students whose collaborative research has been selected for presentation at academic conferences. See http://ccrec.ucsc.edu/projects.

CCREC is now accepting proposals for UC campus events. The primary focus of the grant is to highlight engaged scholarship and build community and capacity among campus faculty and graduate students. From small gatherings to larger events, what will help you on your campus? Hold a CCREC sponsored event or series of events on your campus to make your work and engaged scholarship more visible across the UC. Grants of up to $2,500 will be awarded. The primary applicant must be a CCREC Fellow, but joint proposals are encouraged. For more information, contact CCREC staff at 831-459-1991 or ccrec@ucsc.edu.

Rev. Daniel Buford

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For Buford, research is about more than gathering and interpreting data in that it should serve some public good. As a religious man and through his community connections and other experiences, he believes that he provides something special for academic research organizations like CCREC. “There is an issue with neutrality in academia,” says Buford. “Researchers come into depressed areas and get their facts and their data, and then they leave. What I would like to see is that researchers come in and actually make a real practical change.” For Buford, reporting on conditions is not enough. “Sure, the press goes in to indigent countries and they film starving emaciated children and people for everyone to see,” says Buford. “But I often wonder, do these researchers and reporters ever bring any food with them?” Buford feels that as a “policy analyst for the Lord,” it is his duty to not only gather information but to directly and actively help those from whom information is being gathered. He sees the equity-oriented engaged scholarship that CCREC supports as potentially being able to empower communities to make positive changes—the primary reason for why he became involved.

Buford is looking forward to bringing his broad experience in community organizing across multiple issues impacting low-income communities of color to CCREC. He hopes that participation on the Advisory Board will lead to long-term collaborative relationships that are beneficial to the communities he serves.

Featured Fellow: George Lipsitz

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What is the most challenging part of this project for you?

The main challenge we face is that we think society values the wrong things and promotes the wrong kinds of leadership. Low wage and limited English speaking immigrant women workers know a lot about how this society works. They have been witnesses to war, empire, globalization, labor exploitation, environmental degradation, and sexism. Their experiences have given them ideas about how things should be changed and how a more just society might be created. Thinking along with them and communicating their ideas to others entails hard work. Scholars and workers do not usually talk to one another and learn from one another. We need to develop many new skills to do this work well, but the work is also very enlightening and gratifying. It gives us a chance to work with serious people who think that there is important work to do and that it is up to them (and us) to do it.

What would you like people who read our newsletter to know about you and your work as it relates to both CCREC and your profession?

Scholarship sometimes encourages people to want to have the first word or the last word, but I have found in my work with community organizations that good scholarship can also be the middle word, the word that is spoken in the process of carrying knowledge from one community to another. Our entire society is tragically segregated, and we suffer from that on many levels. But the segregation of scholars from the communities we study is especially deleterious. Research that entails cross-cultural dialogues conducted in a spirit of respect, humility, and friendship can help make us better people, but it can also produce better research and better researchers.

Lastly, what do you think you contribute to the CCREC organization?

I contribute deep respect for all the hard, difficult, and yet necessary work that people on campuses and in communities are doing to understand our problems and to find solutions to them.

In the photo above: Project meeting with AIWA, November 16, 2012, Oakland, CA.
CCREC Mission

CCREC fosters a more equitable California by addressing the interconnected crises in the economy, education, employment, environment, health, housing, and nutrition.

CCREC links university researchers, community-based organizations, and policy-makers in collaborative projects to achieve creative solutions to the problems in our communities.

CCREC prepares a new generation of engaged scholars by coordinating and focusing University of California system-wide efforts to support collaborative research that makes a difference in our communities.

Join CCREC

CCREC is currently accepting applications for fellows, affiliates, and partners. Join us in making a difference in California’s communities and beyond!

Check out our website for more information at ccrec.ucsc.edu/join-CCREC.

Become a CCREC Funding Partner

Please help us continue our important work by becoming a funding partner. Contact Ron Glass at rglass@ucsc.edu or 831-459-5188 or visit ccrec.ucsc.edu/donate for more information.

CCREC is generously supported by a Multi-Campus Research Program Initiative (MRPI) grant from the University of California Office of the President. Additional support is provided by the Spencer Foundation and UCSC’s Division of Social Sciences Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, Anthropology Department, Computer Science Department, Education Department, Latin American & Latino Studies Department, Sociology Department, and the School of Engineering.

What is Collaborative Research?

CCREC uses “collaborative research” as an umbrella term for research methods that actively engage communities and policy makers in the research process from start to finish.

This means that university researchers, community-based organizations, and policy makers will work together in framing the problems to be tackled and the questions that need to be answered; they will work together to undertake the research and interpret the results for their significance for community and policy change; and they will work together to disseminate the research findings and advocate for change. Collaborative research is engaged scholarship in action, in which university researchers, communities members, and policy makers respect the knowledge that each partner brings to the discussion so that together they might know better how to understand the complex problems facing our communities and how to design and implement research-based responses to those problems. Currently, CCREC Fellows (the leadership of the Center) pursue a variety of approaches that are considered collaborative research, and these are known by a variety of labels.

Community Based Research • Community Based Participatory Research • Engaged Scholarship • Participatory Action Research

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University of Cincinnati

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Community Based Research • Community Based Participatory Research • Engaged Scholarship • Participatory Action Research

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