YOUNG ADULT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
A Community-University Partnership for Equity
The Central California Young Adult Civic Engagement (YACE) Project will establish a Community Leaders Fellowship program for young adults recruited from low-income, racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse communities from the eastern border of the San Joaquin valley across to the central coast of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito counties. This often-neglected region has many shared demographic, economic, and social characteristics, and YACE’s regional approach can strategically mobilize the high level of latent political power to meet communities’ most pressing needs.
YACE was developed through an in-depth collaborative process facilitated by the University of California Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California (CCREC). More than 20 community organizations participated in analyzing the needs and strengths in the region and developing YACE as a strategic intervention to create more equitable communities. Beginning with a two-year pilot phase, the YACE Fellowship Program is aimed at increasing the civic engagement of 18-30 year olds in Central California and preparing a new generation of Community Leaders to:

- bridge social, cultural, and economic divides;
- utilize research and data in community organizing efforts; and
- foster healthy, caring, and sustainable communities.

YACE also will enhance the capacity of key community-based organizations to educate and mobilize low-income, racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse communities typically left out of public deliberations and policy formation about issues of central importance to their wellbeing.

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Impact

YACE’s asset-based orientation will provide customized, integrated, and ‘high touch’ support for both the individual Fellows and the core organizations that are the sites of the training experiences. The project is grounded in popular education traditions connected with world-historical movements, and utilizes cohort, peer-to-peer, and organization-to-organization constructivist learning processes. We aim to prepare Community Leaders who have the interdisciplinary knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary to develop programs that can achieve the following outcomes:

- strengthen civic engagement for under represented populations
- organize and mobilize communities to enact equity-oriented change
- amplify, extend, and coordinate the social, economic, and political power of the region’s historically marginalized populations
- impact a broad range of policies and practices in schooling, incarceration, economic and employment opportunities, housing and health care access, environmental quality, and health and nutrition
- build capacity within community and civic organizations to enable marginalized communities to have a political voice and be self-determining
- initiate a regional data and knowledge base
Partners

UC Davis Center for Regional Change (California Civic Engagement Project and Making Youth Data Matter initiatives)

Fathers & Families of San Joaquin (Stockton)

Centro Binacional de Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO)

Merced Organizing Project (Merced)

MILPA (Salinas)

UC Davis Center for Regional Change

UC Merced Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship

Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California (CCREC)
Consider supporting the Young Adult Civic Engagement project. Your funding contribution will help:

• Grant a scholarship to a Young Adult Fellow
• Develop skills and capacities of Young Adult Fellows
• Provide tools for the Fellows
• Increase capacity in a partner community organization
• Build the Data Hub
• Integrate Data & Research in Civic Engagement
• Increase impact by supporting community engagement events

Contact Ron Glass, CCREC Director, at rglass@ucsc.edu or 831-459-5188 for additional information about these and other ways to support YACE.

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CCREC is a University of California multi-campus research program initiative that links university researchers, community-based organizations, and policymakers in collaborative projects to achieve creative solutions to the problems in our communities. CCREC fosters a more equitable California by addressing the interconnected crises in the economy, education, employment, environment, health, housing, and nutrition. CCREC also prepares a new generation of engaged scholars and community leaders.
Contact us

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