

## PROGRAM REVIEW FOR CENTERS AND INSTITUTES

***Center/Institute:*** Gianneschi Center for Nonprofit Research

***Director/Administrator:*** Ms. Kathleen Costello

***College/Academic unit:*** Academic Programs, Center for Internships & Community Engagement

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[http://www.fullerton.edu/cice/GCNR\\_Research.html](http://www.fullerton.edu/cice/GCNR_Research.html)

***Date:*** March 7, 2013

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From Director/Administrator:***

### Self-Study

#### **1. Mission**

The Center exists to support and encourage the work of Orange County's charitable organizations as the repository of data about the sector. And to help nonprofits and broader community better understand the works of this sector. In addition the Center serves as a liaison between the university and nonprofits.

#### **2. Goals and Activities**

The Center has developed several goals related to its mission and replete with activities. Such goals include conducting periodic studies and encouraging scholarly research about the sector. The center produced *Nonprofit Sector: Orange County* a periodic study which documents the number, characteristics and economic scope of the county's nonprofit organizations. The Center also maintains the Orange County nonprofit database; involves practitioners and funders in designing research projects and facilitates meaningful discussion of issues affecting the nonprofit sector in southern California; and creates ways for students to prepare for nonprofit careers and involvement opportunities. The *Gianneschi Fellowship in Nonprofit Leadership* program established in 2010 was introduced to address graduate student difficulties in securing employment in the nonprofit sector. The Center also builds connections with nonprofit alumni through professional development opportunities, student mentorships and network events. This has been accomplished by a scholarship program established by the Nonprofit Professional chapter of the CSUF Alumni Association given annually to a continuing graduate student pursuing a nonprofit career.

### **3. Resources and Sustainability**

The Center is supported by the Center for Internships and Community Engagement (CICE). The Center generates revenue for CICE operations through external support of its projects which includes the Gianneschi Summer School for Nonprofits, occasional research projects and town hall programs also mailing list rentals. The Center's primary resource is its comprehensive database of all nonprofit organizations in Orange County. In addition the center maintains a real-time database of active nonprofits and contacts and a historical archive of financial activity of active nonprofits in Orange County.

### **4. Organizational Structure and Governance**

The Center operates under the auspices of the Center for Internships and Community Engagement and is a part of Academic Programs in the Division of Academic Affairs. The Center's director reports to the director of CICE. An ad hoc steering is convened by the director to advise the center on various projects. In addition, the center leaders have determined that there is a need to form a governing or advisory board.

### **5. Highlights and Accomplishments**

One of the many accomplishments/highlights of the center was the sponsorship of Town Hall: How Safe is Orange County's Safety Net? The town hall in 2010 explored Orange County's safety nets for hunger, health, housing and employment. The Center offers grants and fellowships to university faculty and students for their work with and in conjunction with the nonprofit sector. Mini grants were awarded in service-learning partnerships, nonprofit management training and a fellowship in the form of community partner stipend - (funds) are available to selected nonprofit partner for hosting a 120 to 150 hour summer fellowship for a graduating Cal State Fullerton student.

### **6. Planning and Strategic Outlook**

There are a series of ongoing projects by the Center many of which are identified above. The center makes the case that the center's community engagement profile is quite strong. And that a goal will be to continue to generate formal research by, about and for the nonprofit sector. Here the center could use the assistance of an advisory board to assist in planning.

### **7. Viability**

The leadership of the center feels that the Center adds value to CICE, the university and the broader community and is a recognized brand with a 17 year history. The field of degree programs in nonprofit education has increased in the last decade. The center envisions the potential for growth and expansion especially if the university acts to establish an academic program or professional certificate with nonprofit curriculum.

### **8. Appendices**

Center Finance and Overview  
Center Publications  
Center Grants and Fellowships

Summary and Recommendation(s)

The Gianneschi Center for Nonprofit Research has clearly stated mission – it is the repository of data for the nonprofit sector of Orange County. It is a center within the Center for Internships and Community Engagement. There are a number of goals linked to the mission. For seventeen years of operation the center has established a recognized brand in the university and broader community in the nonprofit sector. One of its most noteworthy contributions is the publication of Nonprofit Sector: Orange County 2012 co-published with OneOC a study which explores the growth and trends in Orange County nonprofit sector. The Center generates revenue for operations through external support of its projects including the Gianneschi Summer School for Nonprofits, occasional research projects, town hall programs and mailing list rentals. Presently, the Center has an ad hoc committee that provides advisement on its programs. A more permanent board or committee is needed to assist more formally in strategic planning for the center and plans are underway to identify and recruit such a group.

The strong and dedicated leadership, adequate resources and history of accomplishing its goals makes the outlook for the Gianneschi Center for Nonprofit Research quite positive.