

# That's SOCIAL POLY

## A Brief History

### THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

The center supports student parents by providing a high-quality educational environment for up to 90 children. Grants, student fees, ASI and the university provide low-cost daycare and preschool.

**1974**

The Children's Center is founded by student parents looking for child care options.

**2003**

"Kids University" opens during the summer months for school-age children.

**2005**

The center purchases outdoor equipment with proceeds from a silent auction held during its 30th anniversary.

**2006**

The Children's Center is the first preschool in Pomona to become accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

**2019**

A \$1.3 million federal grant allows the center to offer evening child care, hire a student parent success coach and expand services to young toddlers.

## Partnering with Communities to Improve Food Security



**Analena Hassberg**, assistant professor of ethnic and women's studies, is a scholar-activist working on issues of food justice and environmental justice in the Los Angeles region.

### WHAT IS FOOD JUSTICE?

Food justice is the idea that everyone should have access to healthy, culturally appropriate food. It involves understanding how the food system is racialized and impacts people based on socioeconomic status and location.

### HOW IS THE FOOD SYSTEM RACIALIZED?

The poorest communities are often populated by people of color while the most affluent are largely white. The food in a neighborhood can signify the racial and economic demographic: Is there more fast food and only a handful of grocery stores with subpar fruits and vegetables? Or are there more whole food options, a farmer's market and a community garden? Low-income communities of color also have a desire for health but oftentimes can't actualize that in their own neighborhoods because of what's available.

### HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE MORE GROCERY AND DINING OPTIONS?

We need residents, community leaders and elected officials to support small community enterprises to make the food environment more equitable. Instead of looking to industry and saying 'We need Walmart,' it would be more effective to support small land grants, community farms and nutrition education offered through schools.

### WHAT CAN COMMUNITIES DO?

I work with Community Services Unlimited, a food justice nonprofit in South Central LA, founded by the local chapter of the Black Panthers in the 1970s to provide social services. They've opened a wellness center that is also a full-scale marketplace that offers healthy food, yoga and capoeira classes, book clubs and more. They also own and operate mini-farms throughout the city. There's a food justice network in South LA, and the CSU demonstrates the kind of range a food justice project can have.

In Pomona, Urban Mission is a food justice ministry and nonprofit. They have turned their church campus into a community farm and wellness center. They partner with Cal Poly Pomona, Western University of Health Sciences and other local organizations to provide health services.

My service-learning students work at both sites on a semester basis.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Education: A Transformative Pursuit

I started my career as an educator nearly 40 years ago. Over that time, one truth has manifested time and again – nothing is more transformative for individuals and communities than the power of education.

The pursuit of knowledge transforms individuals because it broadens our understanding of the world and our place in it. When we seek learning, we find our talents and discover what we hope to achieve in life. When we understand why things happen – whether it be a chemical reaction or a social movement – we become better equipped to address challenges in our communities and beyond. And when we engage in diverse cross-cultural experiences as part of a scholarly community, like a university, our interactions with others become learning opportunities themselves.

And nowhere is the transformative power of education more evident than at Cal Poly Pomona. A CPP education is engaging, relevant and inclusive – all the key ingredients for transformation. Our unique commitment to learning by doing means that faculty and students work collaboratively to live what they learn and are deeply engaged in the community.

Our alumni are living proof. Regardless of

whether you studied chemistry or geography, literature or engineering, Cal Poly Pomona graduates are showing California and the world how education transforms lives.

The stories for this edition of CPP Magazine highlight many of the ways that Cal Poly Pomona works as a catalyst for transformation. Each story is unique, but the common thread is the polytechnic advantage that is our hallmark. As you read through the magazine, I hope that you will take time to consider how Cal Poly Pomona has helped to transform your life and how you can pass that experience on to others.

Go Broncos!

Sincerely,

Soraya M. Coley, Ph.D.  
President

