



“You can have a significant impact in the community and people around you even when you come from one of the most unlikely socioeconomic backgrounds, like me...The path I took [through ICCE] made me a better person, a more loving son, a more caring friend and a more dedicated and fierce advocate for change.”

– ZE-KUN LI, 2011 GRADUATE

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De Anza College is grateful to Jim and Becky Morgan for their challenge gift of \$198,000 over three years. Our goal for the first year is a \$30,000 match. Please consider making a gift to help VIDA honor the Morgans’ generous donation and meet the Institute’s funding needs.

Donations may be made at www.foundation.fhda.edu.



*Empowering Students
 to Become
 Agents of Change*



21250 Stevens Creek Boulevard
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Programs

Community Service Learning (CSL) is a form of experiential education in which students apply knowledge, skills, critical thinking and good judgment to address genuine community needs. Service hours are tracked on transcripts. Classes that require a minimum of 12 hours of CSL are designated in the course listings.

Higher Education for AB 540 Students (HEFAS) provides resources, reduces financial stress and creates a safe learning environment for all students with an emphasis on undocumented/AB 540 information. HEFAS is dedicated to empowering students, building leadership skills, promoting social justice and advocating for higher education.

Internships are designed to support student organizing to promote access to college and success for community college students. Interns work on improving education, public policy and transportation.

LEAD, Latina/o Empowerment at De Anza, aims to help students find a connection to college and their communities and understand how powerful they can be as agents for positive social change.

Leadership and Social Change Certificate prepares students to be leaders in their communities and at their workplaces. Through this program, students gain in-depth knowledge of social structures that define their worlds and learn how to transform those structures to make the world a more equitable place.

Mentors for Youth Empowerment is an extension of the Youth Voices United for Change conference where De Anza students mentor local high school youth throughout the year.

Youth Voices United for Change (YVUC) is De Anza's annual leadership conference for high school and college students.

Mission

The Vasconcellos Institute for Democracy in Action (VIDA) works to empower students to become agents of change in their communities and beyond; to foster education that meets the needs of the communities we serve; and to help develop pathways to meaningful participation in local, state and federal government decision-making processes.

VIDA is named in honor of the late Senator John Vasconcellos, California's longest continuously serving legislator. Vasconcellos was known for his work on public education and his commitment to civic engagement.

History and Background

VIDA began as the Institute of Community and Civic Engagement (ICCE), launched in fall 2006 to advance the education for democracy and develop leadership skills among students interested in becoming agents of social, economic and political change in their communities.

Through VIDA's work, students learn to see college as meaningful to themselves and their communities. There is strong national research to support the claim that community engagement helps with student retention and academic success.

VIDA is a vital part of De Anza College's diverse student population of more than 23,000 students annually. The office is dedicated to bringing all students meaningful educational experiences while building community and social capital.



"The best part about receiving the leadership training is getting to understand who I am, understand my own voice and that I actually matter. What I have to say matters. What I think about – it matters, and people want to hear it...I feel like I have the tools to really make a change in the world."

– MYAH RODRIGUEZ, VIDA STUDENT COORDINATOR

