

Dates of Activity: July 2008 – September 2008  
**Seed Grant:** Developing a College Going Culture in the San Joaquin Valley  
**Grantee Organization:** Central Valley Higher Education Consortium  
California State University, Fresno  
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**Project Summary:**

Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC) seeks to spur San Joaquin Valley residents to continue their education beyond high school and be better prepared for the world of work and civic responsibility through post-secondary education. CVHEC just completed in August the one-year anniversary of The College Place, a community-based college access center located at Manchester Mall in Fresno. CVHEC continues to target first-generation college goers and will recruit college-going coaches and volunteers to offer assistance in application completion, obtaining financial aid, and in career exploration.

**Expectations:**

1. Draft Program encounter/outcomes report with evaluation and sustainability component and present to California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Board of Directors. CVHEC has drafted an MOU agreement with California State University, Fresno, and State Center Community College District to solidify the partnership in keeping The College Place (the Center) sustained beyond the grant funds of the Seed Grant. **(See Appendix.)**

CVHEC executive director is working with department deans and chairs to seek the approvals for the MOU agreement to be finalized.

2. Ongoing operation of the Center

Faculty advisor Albert Valencia has accepted the role of acting director to ensure the consistency of the Center's operations is maintained. For the fall semester, Prof. Valencia employed four college coaches, all who are receiving internship hours to be applied to their master of art program at California State University, Fresno.

Hours of operation have been modified to fit the needs of the community and the availability of the coaches: Monday through Wednesday, 4 to 7:30 p.m.

3. During summer break, our intakes were reduced to 125 for the quarter. However, we have set our semester goal at 300 outreach contacts, 225 contacts for the Center.

We will reach this target by December 2008.

In addition, CVHEC has been awarded an additional \$50,000 from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation 2008-2009 and \$50,000 from the City of Fresno to continue to support operations, coaches' stipends, the faculty advisor, and the indirect support by CVHEC to the Center.

## APPENDIX

Memorandum of Understanding  
**Central Valley Higher Education Consortium**  
**California State University, Fresno • Kremen School of Education and Human Development**  
**State Center Community College District**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth general conditions of an agreement between the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (referred to as the **Consortium**), the California State University, Fresno Kremen School of Education and Human Development (referred to as the **Kremen School of Education**) and the State Center Community College District (referred to as the **State Center**) for the provision of college going outreach information and facilities at the State Center Manchester Educational Resource Center (MERC) at the Manchester Mall in Fresno. All parties realize the benefits to the community to be accrued from their collaborative efforts to inform and encourage residents of the greater Fresno region to pursue their postsecondary educational goals. This outreach program will include information on different colleges, how to obtain admission and related information on these colleges, how to obtain financial aid information and other college going information. The ultimate goal of this MOU is to reach many non-traditional students and residents of the region through non-traditional venues to inform them about a wide range of postsecondary services and opportunities available to them.

### SCOPE OF WORK

The **Consortium** will provide the following services:

1. Develop local and statewide partnerships supportive of The College Place functions and activities.
2. Conduct funding searches, prepare funding request proposals and conduct other fund raising activities such as cash for college, scholarships, and other pertinent college going activities or workshops.
3. Provide an operational tool kit and program manual.
4. Provide direction to the College Access Advisory Committee.
5. Maintain communications with colleges and universities within the Central Valley region regarding The College Place program.
6. Monitor the tracking of students and entering student information into a data base and reporting these findings to the program's MOU partners and funding agencies.
7. Ensure that Kremen School of Education interns and College Place staff only allow area residents access to State Center computers for activities related to college going.
8. Ensure that any area resident utilizing State Center computers are working directly with and are supervised by Kremen School of Education interns or staff of The College Place.
9. Ensure the security of MERC by locking the facility doors when staff or interns leave the facility.

The **Kremen School of Education** will provide the following services:

1. Recruit coaches to serve as interns at The College Place.
2. Provide training, supervision and hours of the interns at Kremen School of Education interns to include counseling, and curriculum.
3. Facilitate coaches' and interns' stipends.
4. Assist in the monitoring and tracking of students.
5. Assist in identifying grants and funding for The College Place.
6. Ensure that the Kremen School of Education interns and College Place staff only allow area residents access to State Center computers for activities related to college going.
7. Ensure that any area resident utilizing State Center computers are working directly with and are supervised by the Kremen School of Education interns or staff members The College Place staff.
8. Ensure the security of MERC by locking facility doors when staff or Kremen School of Education interns leave the facility.

The **State Center** will provide the following services:

1. The use of Room 100 Computer Lab including the 18 computers, the cabinet and the college display at MERC during the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. from Monday through Thursday by the Consortium staff and the interns from the Kremen School of Education for The College Place Program.
2. Allow utilization of the Room 100 Computer Lab at MERC to authorized Consortium staff. The State Center will allow utilization of the Room 100 computers by area residents only under the direct supervision of Consortium staff and the interns from Kremen School of Education. The State Center will provide the Consortium staff with a key to MERC and to Room 100 to allow the Consortium staff and the interns from the Kremen School of Education access to the lab.
3. A referral network for obtaining community college admission and financial aid information.
4. Access by the Consortium staff and the interns from the Kremen School of Education to the State Center's library of printed college going related materials and display modules.

