

IRA THREE-YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions for review by the IRA Advisory Committee. Limit your responses to no more than a total of two typed pages.

1. All IRA funded programs are outgrowths of the CSU, Chico educational curriculum. The IRA fee revenue dollars fund co-curricular activities to further the educational opportunities of students.
 - a. List each of your IRA programs and its faculty advisor.
 1. Hands-On Experiences (HOE) – Brandi Aranguren, Anne Stephens
 2. Food Insecurity Prevention Program – Stephanie Bianco
 - b. Explain how each IRA program relates to your college/unit's educational mission and how co-curricular activities impact the college/unit and the students.

1. The Hands-On Experiences (HOE) support the College of Natural Sciences mission to provide diverse mathematics and science experiences to our university students and our Northern California larger community. The HOE program is supported through the Center for Mathematics & Science Education (CMSE) and meets our important mission to provide and support efforts to increase the understanding of mathematics and science at all age levels. The HOE allows CMSE to provide opportunities to university students to interact with elementary school teachers, children, curriculum and standards at the K-12 level, while providing paid, internship, or experiential education opportunities working with the HOE field trip programs.

The co-curricular activities offer age appropriate activities to elementary students in a fun and safe space that allows our university students to benefit in the following ways:

- share their love for mathematics and science with young children in our community
- for pre-teaching students to practice their content and pedagogical skills
- for students to try out teaching as a potential career option, building our much needed pipeline for recruiting teacher candidates
- allows faculty, university students, teachers and elementary students to interact and form relationships for future teaching placements and support for programming in the schools, e.g., Family Math/Science Nights at area schools, etc.

This popular and highly successful program continues to be one of the longest running and largest community service field trip opportunities on our campus. Our university students get the benefit of practicing what they are learning in courses, get an opportunity to engage with school children, and provide a much needed community service.

2. The Food Insecurity Prevention Program takes a multipronged approach to address campus-wide student food insecurity, while promoting increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. Students involved in this project get an opportunity to apply themselves in the field by offering activities like CalFresh application assistance and coordinating healthy food tasting events. This field experience allows the students to gain a deeper training by experiential learning in the campus/community setting. Student duties include food demonstrations, community nutrition education, food safety practices and educational material preparation. This program is a collaborative venture between the College of Natural Science, Center for Healthy Communities (CHC) and the CSUC Organic Veggie Project with an aim to foster sustainable community systems that promote access to and consumption of healthy foods. It allows the students to communicate with peers and meaningfully engage in the community. This program helps augment the mission of the College of Natural Sciences and the Nutrition and Food Science Department in particular by helping students increase their expertise in the science of nutrition education. It helps prepare students to become competent professionals in the near future to help combat food insecurity and promote optimal health and nutritional status.