

California University
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Cal U to Launch Two New Programs

New academic programs at California University of Pennsylvania will empower graduates to succeed in two high-demand career fields.

Veterinary technology

On-campus classes are scheduled to begin this fall for students seeking careers in veterinary technology, one of the fastest-growing areas of employment nationwide.

Increases in pet ownership, a growing demand for service and working animals, and expansion of veterinary specialties are fueling the need for skilled technicians to work in veterinary clinics and hospitals, large-animal practices, wildlife rehabilitation centers, boarding kennels, government and industry labs, humane societies and more. Forty-one states, including Pennsylvania, reported a shortage of veterinary services last year.

Cal U will offer two “vet tech” degree programs: a two-year Associate of Science in Veterinary Technology and a four-year Bachelor of Science. Students in the “2+2” program may complete

the associate degree and, if they wish, advance seamlessly to earn a bachelor’s degree in veterinary technology or one of Cal U’s biology majors.

Physical therapy

Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education has approved Cal U’s request to develop a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program. The University is seeking a founding director for the three-year, full-time professional graduate program.

The growing demand for physical therapists is driven by an aging population, including baby boomers who are committed to staying active later in life. Widespread chronic conditions such as diabetes and obesity also create mobility issues for patients, boosting the demand for physical therapy.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects job growth of 28% for physical therapists — much faster than the average for all occupations — between 2016 and 2026.

Students who earn a B.S. in Health Science at Cal U will be among those



At Cal U, new associate, bachelor’s and doctoral degrees will propel graduates into fast-growing fields.

ideally positioned to apply for admission to the DPT program. California University also offers a rigorous, two-year Associate of Applied Science

program for physical therapist assistants. To learn more or to enroll at Cal U, call the Admissions Office at 724-938-4404.



Cal U President Geraldine Jones will receive the 2019 Human Rights Award.

NAACP Branch Honors President Jones

University President Geraldine M. Jones will accept the 2019 Human Rights Award from the NAACP Washington (Pa.) Branch at the organization’s 59th annual Human Rights Award Banquet.

The award ceremony will be held May 3 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Meadowlands, Pa.

Jones is the first woman and the first person of color to serve as president of California University of Pennsylvania, where she earned both her master’s and bachelor’s degrees.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the NAACP Washington Branch, which has worked tirelessly for decades to promote equal rights and opportunities for residents of southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond,” she said.

“I have devoted my life to education because I believe in its power to help individuals from all backgrounds reach their full potential. When we prepare students for success in their careers and in their lives, we also help their families and our communities to thrive.”

Jones was installed as California’s seventh president in October 2016, after leading the University for nearly four years as acting and interim president.

Previous honors recognize her longtime commitment to the University and to the success of individuals and communities in southwestern Pennsylvania. The Cal U Alumni Association has honored her with the John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service, and the Black Alumni

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Panel Features Mother of Trayvon Martin, Hip-hop Icon Chuck D

Hip-hop icon Chuck D, founder of the groundbreaking rap group Public Enemy, and Sybrina Fulton, mother of the late Trayvon Martin, explore “Social Justice, Mental Health and the Hip-hop Generation” when Cal U hosts its 14th annual Hip-hop Conference.

Psychologist Dr. Traice Webb-Bradley joins the panel discussion at 5:30 p.m. April 25 in the Morgan Hall auditorium at California University of Pennsylvania.

Admission is free, and the public may attend.

The conference also includes:

- A campus roundtable, “The Life and Legacy of Nipsey Hussle,” at 11 a.m. April 23 in Carter Hall’s multipurpose room. Cal U alumni, student-athletes and members of BSU will be featured.
- A student debate, “Top 10 Rappers,” by members of Cal U Men United at 11 a.m. April 25 in Duda Hall, Room 103.

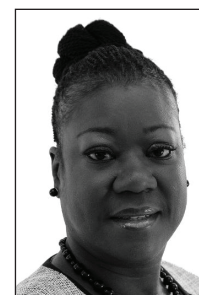
Rapper Chuck D redefined hip-hop as one of America’s most popular – and often controversial – art forms when he founded Public Enemy in the late 1980s.

Albums including “It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back” and “Fear of a Black Planet” established him as a spokesman for social justice and the black community.

Sybrina Fulton has dedicated her life to transforming grief into advocacy for social change. Her 17-year-old son, Trayvon



Chuck D



Sybrina Fulton

Martin, was killed in a violent confrontation in 2012.

Dr. Traice Webb-Bradley is a licensed clinical psychologist and a national psychologist peer reviewer and subject matter expert for Optum Health Behavioral Solutions. In clinical practice, she has a special interest in working with people of color and women regarding trauma, identity and sexuality issues.

Cal U’s annual Hip-hop Conference is organized by Dr. Kelton Edmonds, a professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law.



Performances by Gabby Barrett and Chris Jamison will be part of the first President's Backyard Celebration on May 2.

Local Musicians Highlight President's Backyard Celebration

Two stars from "The Voice" and "American Idol" will present a concert May 2 at Cal U as part of the President's Backyard Celebration.

Chris Jamison, a Pittsburgh native, will perform at 6 p.m., and Gabrielle "Gabby" Barrett, from Munhall, Pa., will take the stage at 7 p.m.

Admission to the concert, which will be held on the quad, is free and the public is invited. Free parking will be available in Lot 4.

Jamison, a pop and soul singer-songwriter, competed on the seventh season of NBC's "The Voice," finishing in third place. He released his debut

original song, "Velvet," in 2014, performing the single on "The Voice" in the live finale. That same year Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald honored Jamison with keys to Pittsburgh, and deemed Dec. 3 Chris Jamison Day.

A portion of all proceeds from his 2018 single "Faith Hope Love" goes to the Tree of Life Synagogue due to the tragic events of Oct. 27.

Barrett, who placed third in season 16 of ABC's "American Idol," has opened for noted country stars Toby Keith, Keith Urban and Cole Swindell. She is known for her singles "You Name on It" and "Something Good," and her music video

"Youthful Blood" has been seen more than 100,000 times on YouTube.

During the event, which is sponsored by the Office of the President and Student Activities Board, there will be inflatables, yard games and a mobile roller rink, along with free snacks and dinner items for purchase.

"We have been looking for a spring signature event, something that can bring the campus and the community together to celebrate the end of the spring semester," said Melissa Dunn, event coordinator and director of student activities, programming and leadership. "It should be a very enjoyable evening."

California Spring Cleanup May 6-18

California Borough is helping Cal U students clean house before they leave their off-campus rentals for summer break.

Daily garbage pickup will be available from Monday, May 6, through Saturday, May 18, and a bin will be placed outside the California Area Public Library so students can recycle unwanted electronic items.

The schedule gives students time to discard unwanted items as they clean out their off-campus rentals during the week prior to Commencement. Borough landlords also can utilize the service as their student renters depart.

Cal U faculty and staff are reminded that the service is intended for Cal U students and borough residents only.

"We know that student renters often have bulky items or electronic devices they don't want to take home for the summer, so we thank our borough officials for making this cleanup possible," said University spokesperson Christine Kindl.

"We ask our students who live downtown to utilize this service and time their housekeeping so trash doesn't sit at the curb. We can work together to keep our community looking good."

BotsIQ Returns to Cal U

Eighty teams of students from more than 50 local high schools will take their 15-pound custom-built robots into battle during the 14th annual Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ Finals April 26-27 inside the Convocation Center.

BotsIQ is a national program supported locally by the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association.

The event uses gladiator-style battles and a spirit of competition to build students' skills in science, technology, engineering and math.

The opening ceremony is 9:05 a.m. April 26. Bouts begin at 9:45 a.m. inside a pair of shatter-resistant cubes. On April 27, battles begin at 9:15 a.m. following the 8:45 a.m. opening ceremony. The championship bout is tentatively scheduled for 6 p.m. with the

awards ceremony at 6:15 p.m.

Admission is free, and the public is invited to watch.

A free STEAM Showcase from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. both days will spotlight science, technology, engineering, arts and math. It includes a visit from Intermediate Unit 1's mobile fabrication laboratory, or fab lab.

BotsIQ is intended to build career pathways for students interested in STEM. Manufacturers and other sponsors work with mentors, teachers and parents to develop STEM skills and connect students with employers, workforce training opportunities and higher education options.

SWPA BotsIQ is managed by New Century Careers and affiliated with the National Robotics League, which holds its national competition May 17-18, also at the Convocation Center.



The annual spring pottery sale May 2 is part of the 'Vulcan Art and Languages Party.'

Vulcan Art, Languages Party Set May 2

The Department of Art and Languages will conduct an end-of semester celebration and honor a retiring staff member with a "Vulcan Art and Languages Party" on May 2.

Darla Holley-Holmes, who provides administrative support in the department and has worked at Cal for more than 30 years, will retire May 10. She worked to launch Cal U Women United and was one of the Spring 2013 Women of the Year selections by the President's Commission for the Status of Women.

The event will be held from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on all three floors of Vulcan Hall.

Artwork of students in printmaking and jewelry classes will be on display

during an opening reception in the Vulcan Gallery from 4-8 p.m.

Students from drawing and painting will display artwork on the upper floors in an exhibition titled *Lights and Shades*, featuring hand-crafted lamps and hand-painted lampshades.

Live music will be performed by student musicians throughout the day, and refreshments will be served.

Pottery created by members of the Student Pottery Club will be on sale 10 a.m.-8 p.m. May 1 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. May 2 in the Ceramics Studio, near Vulcan Hall.

Students who would like to play music or perform during the May 2 event should contact Maggy Aston at aston@calu.edu or Andrea Cencich at cencich_a@calu.edu.

NAACP to Honor President

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Association has given her its Outstanding Service Award.

The *New Pittsburgh Courier* recognized her among its 2010 Women of Excellence, and she has received the Pittsburgh Diversity Leadership Summit's Urban Hero of Western Pennsylvania and Most Powerful and Influential Women awards. In 2016 she received the ATHENA Award from the Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about the Human Rights Award, the May 3 banquet or other NAACP Washington Branch activities, contact the branch's first vice president, Phyllis L. Waller, at pwaller1956@gmail.com or 724-222-7824; or call the NAACP office at 724-222-7820.

Strike a Spark Building Momentum

For the fifth year, the Strike a Spark Conference will highlight the research, scholarship and creativity of undergraduate students.

This year's event will run from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. April 24 in the Convocation Center. The campus community and the public are welcome to attend the conference, which is organized by Cal U's Center for Undergraduate Research.

Dr. Daniel Greenstein, chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, will deliver the keynote address, "Public Higher Education Re-imagined: Innovation and Entrepreneurship in a Sharing System," at 11:20 a.m. in the south wing.

At 1 p.m., Greenstein will hold a public forum in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center. After a short presentation about the State System's redesign, the chancellor will take questions from the audience.

The Strike a Spark Conference's morning session will run from 9 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. with posters and creative works in the lobby, oral sessions in the north wing rooms, and digital storytelling presentations in the Hospitality Room, located near the south wing. An afternoon session following the same format will be from 1-2:40 p.m.

Preceding the chancellor's address in the south wing will be a theater performance, "On the EDGES: An Exploration of Anxiety, Co-Dependence, and the Importance of Connection." Cal U students performing include E.J. Christopher, Jeromy Mackey, Daniel Nuttall, Marissa Sorenson, Erin Stump, and Alexandra Wilson.

Following the keynote at 11:40 p.m.,



The fifth annual Strike a Spark Conference, highlighting scholarship, research and creativity, takes place on April 24 in the Convocation Center.

Cal U student poets Monica Flickinger, Kaitlyn Furlong and Ciera Jones will perform "We Did Not Ask for This: A Poetic Exploration of Mental Illness."

Before a buffet lunch on the concourse, the winners of the Serene Leadership Essay Contest will be announced, and the Cal U Dance Ensemble will present about connecting dance, research and advocacy for suicide prevention.

Six ensemble members — Holly Grainger, Jessica Kroll, Juliann Marraccini, Rachel Wells,

Alexandra Wilson and Amanda Woodburn — will perform "You Matter," an 8-minute dance movement exploring what a potential suicide victim might be experiencing.

Nearly 40 students from Jeannette High School are expected to attend the morning and featured sessions before meeting with admissions counselors.

Dr. Gregg Gould, director of the Center for Undergraduate Research, said this year's conference is shaping up to be the best yet.

"Obviously, we are thrilled to have

the chancellor attending and speaking," Gould said. "Our planning committee has worked diligently to expand the activities, and I believe everyone will be impressed with the depth and breadth of the research, scholarship and creativity on display.

"There's always a great deal of energy throughout the Convocation Center during the entire conference, and I expect we will build on that momentum."

For more about the conference, visit calu.edu/strikeaspark.

Relationships Key During Crises

He called the mass shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in June 2015 his defining moment, but it was the previous nine years of preparation that Gregory Mullen emphasized.

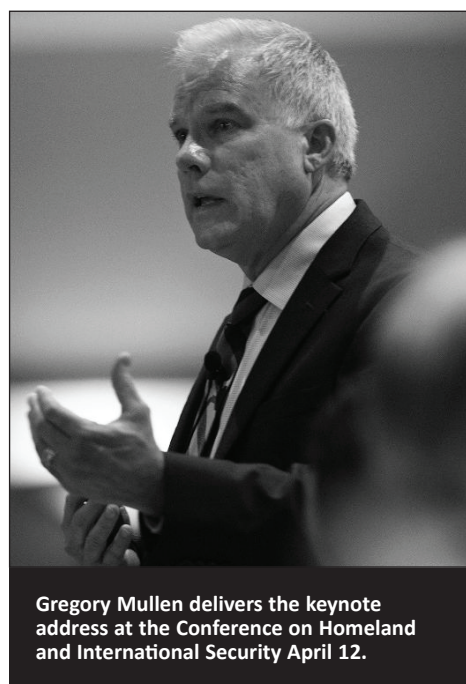
The chief of police in Charleston, S.C., from 2006-2017, Mullen gave the keynote address, "Partnerships, Trust and Legitimacy: How They Integrate to Create Resiliency During Crisis," at Cal U's 11th annual Conference on Homeland and International Security on April 12.

This year's theme was "Protecting Places of Worship."

Mullen, now associate vice president for public safety and chief of police at Clemson University, said his department's efforts to build relationships with agencies, activists and community groups played a key role immediately after the tragedy, which left nine people dead inside the church.

Through the relationships and steady dialog, a family assistance center, with mental health clinicians, clergy, police officers and victim advocates, was set up just an hour and a half after the shooting. Other local groups helped with daily crowds of 10,000 — including protesters — at the church.

"This was not a law enforcement event ... it was a community event," Mullen said. "By having those relationships, connections and people coming together, it was amazing how things calmed themselves throughout the community when things began to percolate."



Gregory Mullen delivers the keynote address at the Conference on Homeland and International Security April 12.

He also believes the years of building a culture of respect and cooperation between police and residents were validated.

"I believe that was a very important component because it demonstrated to the community all the things we said to them previously about being there for them not just as police officers but people who would care about them and bring a sense of normalcy to their lives after a crisis.

"Afterward, a pastor told me the killer wanted to start a race war but what he did was start a revival. Creating relationships at the time prepared us for a night the unthinkable happened."

Criminal Justice Department faculty members Dr. John Cencich and Dr. Michael Hummel presented about predictive behavioral analysis and security challenges of protecting institutions of worship. The conference coordinator was Dr. Julie Warnick, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice.

A former senior U.N. war crimes investigator and director of the Pennsylvania Center for Investigative and Forensic Services, Cencich said a multilayered approach is important.

"There's no singular red flag that is indicative of a person posing a threat," he said. "The focus must be on their body language, oral and written responses, and, for me, asking questions," he said.

Hummel, a retired military police officer and an active municipal police officer in Charleroi and Monessen, Pa., said security professionals must change the mindset of ministry leaders to integrate effective security programs.

"Get started now, fight off complacency, layer your security and be vigilant," he said.

Mullen hopes the students in attendance came away with a better understanding of what law officers hope to accomplish.

"If you're a student or somebody who is thinking about going into law enforcement, I hope this encourages you that this is a very honorable and noble profession.

"If you come into this profession, know that you can do tremendous things within your community."

Final Open House April 27

Cal U will hold this spring's final Open House program for prospective undergraduate students on April 27.

The events introduce prospective students to Cal U or give students who have been accepted a chance to explore the campus.

At an open house, students and their families can learn more about Cal U's programs of study, housing and student life.

They can talk with Cal U students, meet faculty members from their academic area of interest, tour the main campus and visit Vulcan Village on the upper campus. They also take part in various campus activities.

To register for the April 27 undergraduate Open House, go to calu.edu/visit.

For information on the admissions process at Cal U, visit calu.edu/admissions or call 724-938-4404.

Fishing Festival Also an Educational Tool



Children can try their luck at landing a trophy fish and participate in many other family-friendly activities April 27 at the Pike Run Youth Fishing Festival.

Students from Dr. Candice Riley's recreation program planning and evaluation course have been helping to make a successful collaboration between the University and community even better.

The 24th annual Pike Run Youth Fishing Festival is set for 8 a.m.-3 p.m. April 27 at Rotary Park, off Route 88 (Third Street) in California.

The free event is open to boys and girls ages 15 and younger. A parent, guardian or other adult must accompany children younger than 13.

Registration begins at 7 a.m., and last year more than 175 young anglers cast their reels despite chilly weather.

Riley, who is the faculty adviser for the event, said students plan, deliver, and evaluate the event as a class project. They handle tasks such as marketing, planning games and activities and preparing the site for the festival.

"One of the learning outcomes of this course is to create a successful recreation program, and event planning has become a key responsibility in not just the parks and recreation field, but other fields such

as tourism and sport management," Riley said.

"This class provides students hands-on experience in what it takes to plan, deliver, and evaluate a recreation event, which is important in career development."

The festival is organized and programmed by the University's parks and recreation management program, the Parks and Recreation Student Society, and the Cal U Eco-Learning Community, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, California Rotary, the Borough of California and the California Borough Recreation Authority.

Alex Arnold, a junior majoring in parks and recreation management and history, was the student society's president last year. He has found Riley's class to be very beneficial.

"The needs assessment we've done, which is finding out what your constituents want, has been extremely valuable and something I was not as aware of previously," Arnold said. "One of our main goals this year is to provide

many different family-fun activities for people to do along with the great fishing.

"The additional help and manpower during the running of the event is also monumental, and it's something to see how excited the kids get when they start catching fish because they're so pumped about it."

Kids may bring their own fishing gear, or they can borrow equipment from a Cal U student volunteer as part of the state Fish and Boat Commission's Borrow-A-Rod-and-Reel program.

Expert fishing guides will be on hand to answer questions or help young anglers learn how to catch trout.

The Pike Run Fishing Festival Committee will stock the stream the day before with rainbow, brook, brown and golden trout.

Vendors will sell bait, tackle, food and beverages at the festival, which closes with a weigh-in, prizes and the awarding of trophies.

For more information about the fishing festival, contact Riley at riley@calu.edu, call 724-938-5288, or visit facebook.com/groups/PRYFF.

One Acts Conclude Theater Season

The Department of Music and Theatre concludes its spring season by presenting "An Evening of One Acts" at 7 p.m. May 2-3, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. May 4.

The student-directed event is open to the public and will be performed in the Gerald and Carolyn Blaney Theatre in Steele Hall.

"This annual production is filled with a mix of genres and performance styles that provide a form of expression for our students," said Dr. Michele Pagen, professor and co-chair of the Department of Music and Theatre.

"The door is open for exploration, and we hope people come out to see what's on the hearts and minds of our students."

Subject matter may not be suitable for younger patrons.

Ticket price is \$12 for adults; \$6 for those 55 and older and 12 and younger. Cal U students with valid CalCards pay 50 cents, plus a \$5 deposit that is refunded at the show.

For ticket information, or to charge tickets by phone, call the Steele Hall Box Office at 724-938-5943.

Cal U Celebrates Earth Day

Cal U will celebrate Earth Day with many activities inside the Natali Student Center followed by volunteer work on three campus gardens.

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22. Worldwide, various events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

Coordinated by the Horticulture and Sustainability Club, activities at Cal U will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

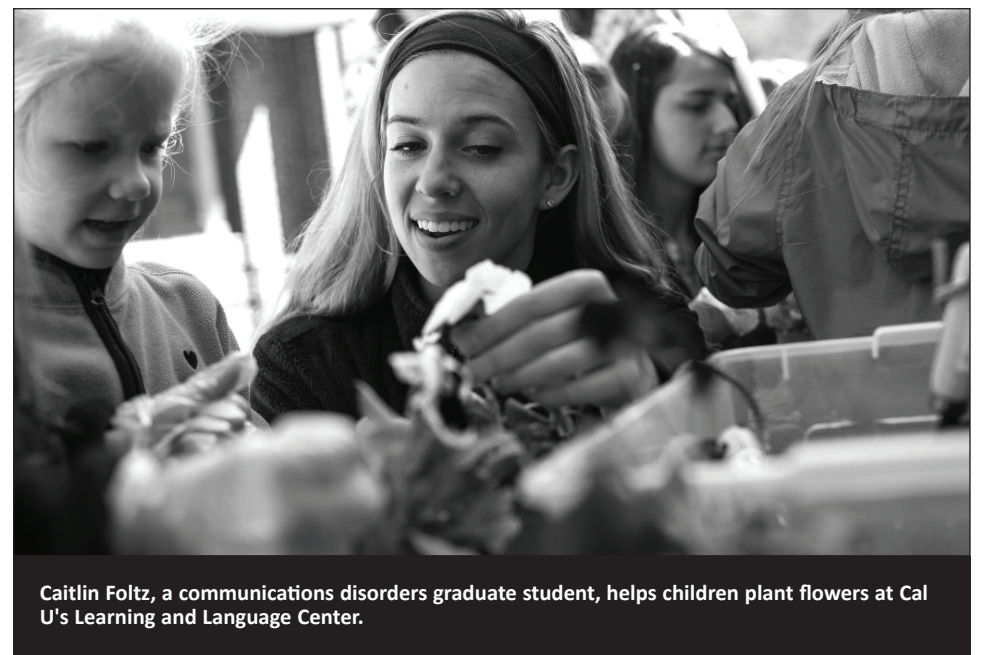
Event coordinator and club president Daja Douglas emphasized the importance of bringing awareness to environmental issues.

"We can't keep taking the earth's resources for granted, and our actions affect our future," Douglas said. "We need to become more conscious, sustainable and eco-friendly now or the resources we have now will not be here for our children, and our children's children."

Natali Events

At 11 a.m., Brian Cavanaugh, Cal U's director of Environmental Health and Safety, will deliver the keynote address in the Performance Center.

More than a dozen clubs will have tables set up near the Food Court to offer their perspectives on Earth Day — for example, the College Democrats and College Republicans will focus on environmental policies; the Mathematics Association of America will provide information on math and nature; and the Black Student Union will focus on environmental racism.



Caitlin Foltz, a communications disorders graduate student, helps children plant flowers at Cal U's Learning and Language Center.

The Horticulture and Sustainability Club will be selling seeds and plant starters.

Students from Advanced Drawing classes will show drawings on environmental themes and animal drawings from the biology collection in Frich Hall. Students will also be working on large-drawing murals inside the Performance Center from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Students from Advanced Painting classes will have an exhibition of earth-related paintings on easels in front of the Performance Center.

From 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cal U Dining and Hospitality Services will hold its annual Earth Day Picnic throughout the Gold Rush, including the dining hall and patio.

Campus Gardens

Various fraternities, sororities, clubs and several athletic teams will be tending to three campus gardens from 4-7 p.m. April 22.

Students will be planting and sprucing up the sensory garden located outside the Learning and Language Center in Morgan Hall.

Volunteers will install a pollination garden in front of Frich Hall and plant crops at SAI Farm. Transportation to and from the farm will be available in front of the Natali Student Center.

The crops are used to increase food security for students via the Cal U Cupboard.

For more information, contact Douglas at dou2509@calu.edu or Dr. Sarah Meiss at meiss@calu.edu.

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