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Cal U Receives \$1.3 Million Grant

Cal U has received a three-year, \$1.3 million grant to assist students preparing for careers in fields related to drug addiction policy, prevention and recovery.

The Health Resources and Services Administration Opioid Workforce Expansion grant will provide 27 stipends of \$10,000 each to graduate students in the fields of social work, school counseling and clinical mental health counseling.

This is the second HRSA grant for Cal U. In 2017, the University received a four-year, \$1.9 million grant to help students with field placements and to increase the services provided to schools and communities in medically underserved areas in the region.

"The Opioid Workforce Expansion grant is great because it's for our students," said Dr. Sheri Boyle, chair of

the Social Work Department. "But it's also critical for our community, because it will focus on the serious issue of opioid and other substance abuse disorders."

Students in Cal U's accredited counselor education program must complete a 600-hour field placement. The accredited social work program requires students to complete 660 hours in their advanced practicum.

"To be able to provide more than \$270,000 per year in stipends is significant," Boyle said. "It allows our students to focus on their studies and their practicums and not worry so much about expenses."

"We work very closely with Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education and surrounding schools, and very few programs have an opportunity like this," said Molly Jenkins,



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project coordinator for the grant.

The project will aid graduate students working toward a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling, a Master of Education in school counseling PreK-12, or a master's degree in social work.

"Cal U's counselor education and social work programs address addiction, but this grant will really help our students get that additional training in substance use disorders," said Dr. Elizabeth Gruber, chair of the

Counselor Education Department. "It will have an impact in the community as they're training and after they graduate."

"It's not just drug and alcohol clinics," Boyle said. "Many of our students want to work at schools or in the community on early intervention. From the social work perspective, some may want to work on the policy side to delve into what else people may need to recover from addiction."

The grant also will be used for training in the community.

"We may collaborate with police officers or first responders for trainings and provide continuing education credits as required in behavioral health professions to maintain licensure," Gruber said.

"We recognize there is a crisis," Boyle said, "and we want to do our part to help people and communities."



Matt Kifer (left), Cal U sports information director; Gary Smith, winner of the George Heaslip Award; and Steve Murray, PSAC commissioner.

PSAC Honors CUTV's Smith

Gary Smith, director of CUTV Operations and adviser for WCAL and CUTV, was presented as the 2019 recipient of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) George Heaslip Award at the league's Football Media Day on Aug. 5.

The George Heaslip Award, chosen annually by the PSAC's sports information directors, is named in honor of the late Cheyney University Sports Information Director George Heaslip. The award recognizes a media professional for his or her meritorious service while covering the conference's student-athletes, coaches, and teams. Smith becomes the 31st recipient of the award.

Smith '98, '01 has been a mainstay covering Cal U athletics for 25-plus years through involvement with CUTV and WCAL, the student radio and television

stations on campus. He has served as advisor of CUTV for over 15 years and was appointed adviser of WCAL in recent years.

"This was a tremendous honor, and I am truly humbled by being awarded the Heaslip Award," said Smith. "A part of this award belongs to all the hard-working students who I have worked with over the years. Broadcasting Cal U and PSAC athletics has been the time of my life."

Through his efforts, CUTV and WCAL have covered hundreds of Cal U athletic events in the sports of football, men's and women's basketball, volleyball, men's and women's soccer, baseball, softball, and swimming among others.

Smith has played a critical role in the recent PSAC Network implementation for Cal U athletics, as CUTV

coordinates with the sports information office to ensure live video and audio coverage of league football, volleyball and basketball contests on the platform.

"Gary Smith and his students have been extremely helpful in helping our conference develop its identity," said Will Adair, associate commissioner for the PSAC. "We are able to draw on the experience of CUTV to expand our coverage and the PSAC is very fortunate to be able to utilize the resources provided by CUTV."

"Through Gary's leadership CUTV is a tremendous asset for us."

Additionally, Smith oversees a YouTube page for CUTV that contains nearly 1,000 different videos. He has served as director and on-air talent for several in-studio shows featured on the YouTube page, including weekly coaches shows for football and basketball.

Princeton Review Lauds Cal U

For the 15th consecutive year, The Princeton Review is recognizing California University of Pennsylvania as one of the best universities in the northeastern United States.

The nationally known education services company profiles Cal U in its "2020 Best Regional Colleges" listing at www.PrincetonReview.com/bestNEcolleges.

The 224 northeastern institutions profiled this year are "academically outstanding and well worth consideration" as part of a student's college search, the website says. The colleges on the "Best in the Northeast" list are located in 11 Northeastern states and the District of Columbia.

In its 2020 "Region by Region" guide, The Princeton Review recognized 656 colleges and universities in the Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and West, along with international schools. Schools are assessed for academic excellence based on data and information submitted by the school, as well as student surveys and other sources.

"The school has a great environment for studying, and the faculty and staff are pretty great," one student said in response to the survey. "They make sure they give you the support and aid you need to succeed in and out of the classroom."

Another said students' broad range of interests and diversity make the campus feel inclusive and inviting. "Almost everyone is involved in some sort of club," one student said. "It is nice to be here and see everyone moving towards their goals, [still making] time to come together for school-held events."



University President Geraldine M. Jones congratulates Carter Fitzpatrick at the Rutledge Institute preschool commencement.

Rutledge Scholarship Available

As the second class of Rutledge Institute Scholars prepares to begin their studies, Cal U has begun accepting applications from current high school seniors who wish to enter the program in Fall 2020.

Each year 10 highly qualified students are selected for the Rutledge Institute program, which prepares men and women for careers as preschool and elementary school teachers.

Each Rutledge Institute Scholar receives an annual scholarship that covers the full cost of tuition, academic fees and on-campus housing at Cal U, so long as program requirements continue to be met. Over four years, the award is valued at more than \$70,000.

Selection is underway, and priority deadline is Nov. 15, 2019.

Rutledge Institute Scholars enter California's accredited childhood education program as first-year students, with a four-year goal of earning:

- A bachelor's degree in education (B.S.Ed.) for grades pre-K to 4.
- Pennsylvania Level I teaching certification.

- The Integrative STEM Education Endorsement, an in-demand credential that documents an educator's ability to integrate science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts into classroom lessons.

Scholars gain professional experience working alongside certified teachers in the preschool program on campus, as well as in public school classrooms.

As the program progresses, a peer-mentoring program encourages students to collaborate, co-teach and study together, forming a supportive learning community. Scholars supplement classroom studies and fieldwork with research and summer workshops focused on innovations in education.

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants should have a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and SAT/ACT scores that meet the state Department of Education's qualifying score requirements. Letters of recommendation and a written essay also are required.

For details, visit calu.edu/rutledge, or contact Dr. Rebecca Maddas, of Cal U's Childhood Education Department, at maddas@calu.edu, 724-938-4494 or 724-938-4135.

First Rutledge Class Graduates

Nattily attired in their red caps and gowns with white hoods, five excited youngsters received "diplomas" from Cal U President Geraldine M. Jones as the first graduating class from the Karen and Tom Rutledge Institute for Early Childhood Education preschool.

The Institute supports an innovative preschool learning program for children ages 3-5. The on-campus education center is staffed by teachers from The Village, an accredited early childhood education center in downtown California, Pa.

Cherie Sears, president of The Village, director of the Rutledge Institute Preschool Program and a Cal U alumna, welcomed the audience on Aug. 9 and thanked the graduates for making the Institute such a special place.

"They are ready for school academically and socially, and have also been taught to give to others and share that spirit," she said. "This first year has been very successful, and we are very excited moving into the fall."

President Jones told the graduates how impressed she was with the

encouragement they offered to the adult speakers during the ceremony.

"You show why so many good things are going on here, and this is the first of many graduation ceremonies you will be part of," she said. "Hopefully, one of your graduations will be as students here at California University.

"But today you are all part of the inaugural Rutledge Institute graduation class and have such bright futures ahead of you."

Lauren Perry '19, who served as the Pre-K lead teacher, was visibly moved when she spoke about the memorable moments.

"Every single day I am left with a memory of you, and every day we leave with a smile and hug and then start the next day the same way," she said. "In the few months I have been here, this has impacted me in such a special way, and we're all truly blessed to be part of this."

After the graduates received their diplomas, Ashley Roth '10, '12, assistant director of the Rutledge Institute and an instructor in Cal U's Department of Childhood Education, had them

move their tassels from right to left.

The first graduating class consisted of Niharika Agarwal, Carter Fitzpatrick, Amora Grillo, Nakai Nichols, Leila Rbaibi and Lachlan Johnson, who was unable to attend.

Amanda Rbaibi, Leila's mother, said the experience was great for her daughter.

"She has learned so much, and I am overjoyed with her experience here," said Amanda Rbaibi. "Leila loves her classmates and teachers, and she always comes home with stories of how much fun she's having."

The Rutledge Institute funds annual scholarships for up to 20 local children to attend the preschool program.

It also pays tuition, fees and room costs for Rutledge Scholars, a select group of highly qualified students who enroll in Cal U's childhood education program.

The full-time learning program runs Monday through Friday, year-round, in a dedicated facility on Cal U's campus.

For information, applications and more details about the Rutledge Institute, visit calu.edu/rutledge.



Sam Park (left), Mollie Ehrlichman, Betty Kline and Serena Olsen are members of the Puppet Brigade.

Students Entertain with Puppet Brigade

Cal U theater majors are continuing the University's "Puppet Brigade" for a second year.

After creating a five- to 10- minute show under the direction of assistant professor Sabrina Hykes-Davis, students traveled to local daycare centers and libraries this summer to perform their work. They also conducted a workshop for children to make their own puppets.

The outreach is intended for children from local daycares and library programs.

The is the second year for the

brigade, which began last year when students created a show in Hykes-Davis' puppetry class.

This year's was an adaptation of *Instructions*, © 2010 Neil Gaiman, first published by HarperCollins, Bloomsbury. Under a grant from Cal U's Faculty Professional Development Center, copies of the book were provided to children.

The Puppet Brigade expanded from two daycares and three libraries last year to three daycares and five libraries in 2019.

"I hope to make this an annual outreach," Hykes-Davis said.

SGA Leaders Hone Skills at Conference

Two Student Government Association members are looking forward to the new academic year after attending a “life-changing” national conference this summer.

Sophomores Amanda Considine and Maria Dovshek, also University Honors Program students, attended the Institute for Leadership Education and Development (I-LEAD) national conference at the University of Vermont from July 21-26.

I-LEAD is ACUI’s (Association of College Unions International) premier student program. It helps students build a sense of community on campus through team-building strategies and exercises.

“Sharing our leadership journeys was very meaningful and the reason why everyone became so close-knit,” said Dovshek, the corresponding secretary of SGA who is majoring in communication studies with a minor in event planning. “This reinforced to me the importance of listening to other people’s points of view, even in making decisions that we feel will benefit everyone.”

Both Cal U leaders said I-LEAD gave them the tools to become more effective and perceptive leaders.

“They did not simply tell us to watch them, take notes and this is how you go back to your campus and lead,” said Considine, SGA’s financial secretary and a double major in business administration and psychology.

“Instead, they challenged us to dig deep within ourselves and discover what we value individually and how that influences us as leaders.

“Now it’s our job to take the lessons

we learned and use them in making the best decisions for the students at Cal U.”

Dovshek said the conference also emphasized self-improvement and will help her academically. She highlighted a memorable quote: “I am focusing on myself, for the sake of others.”

“That stuck with me because even though I am undecided now as to what I am going to do after graduating, I know that I want to work with people and help others,” she said. “This experience will always be something that stays with me, and I am grateful for the opportunity.”

The conference included a day of service to the community. Dovshek worked to create walking paths at the Rock Point recreation, conservation and education center. Considine gleaned crops for local homeless shelters.

“There I was in beautiful, sunny Vermont harvesting crops on a 400-acre mountain for those in need,” said Considine. “This was, without a doubt, the most extraordinary and rewarding service I’ve ever participated in.”

Two scholarships helped offset expenses: Dovshek received an ACUI Region VII Student Leadership Scholarship; Considine received the Alan K. James Scholarship, which is awarded to a member of SGA.

“I will be forever grateful for receiving the scholarship and look forward to meeting him,” Considine said of James, a retired Cal U Student Affairs administrator. “Amanda and I had a life-changing experience, and I can only hope more Cal U students continue to get this same opportunity.”



Amanda Considine (left) and Maria Dovshek enjoy the Institute for Leadership Education and Development national conference at the University of Vermont.

Print Kiosks in Residence Halls

This fall, Cal U students are able to print important documents from the comforts of their on-campus home.

As part of the second phase of Cal U’s partnership with WEPA, a provider of cloud-based printing services, six print stations have been installed in all of the University’s on-campus residence halls.

In addition, three kiosks have been added to New Science, Helsel and Morgan halls.

The print system allows students and guests to print from any device — computer, smart phone, tablet or USB drive — to any of the WEPA printers on campus.

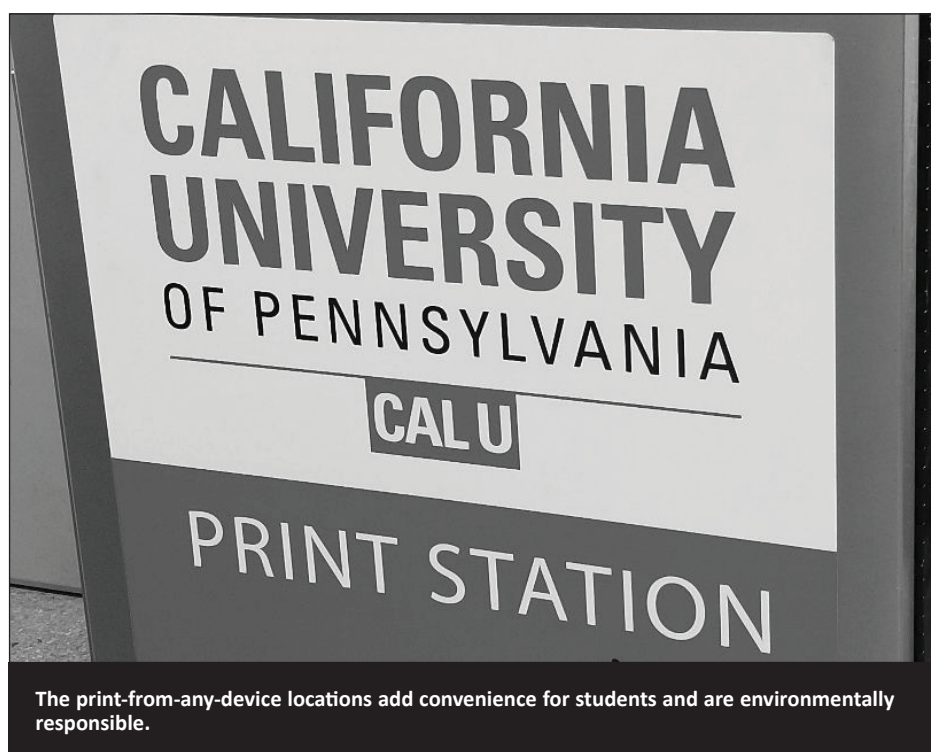
All of the stations are PrintReleaf Exchange (PRX) certified, which is a patented software platform that offsets the environmental costs of printing by planting one tree for every 8,333 pages printed — or the amount of paper harvested from one tree. All toner cartridges are recycled.

Seven WEPA print kiosks were placed on campus and at Vulcan Village last summer during phase one of WEPA installation.

Since joining PRX, Cal U has offset the equivalent of 136,134 total standard pages of paper consumption by reforesting 16.34 standard trees.

Dennis Carson, University Technology Services director of Networking and Security, thinks those numbers will increase as the second phase begins.

“We’re pretty excited about this because it’s easier for us to support, gives our students more options, and



The print-from-any-device locations add convenience for students and are environmentally responsible.

will offset costs and help the environment considerably,” said Carson.

The kiosks also add convenience and flexibility. Jobs can be sent to any kiosk. A CalCard is required to retrieve printed materials.

“Instead of having to decide which lab to physically go and sit down in and print to that printer, you could print from home or from any building on campus and walk up to any WEPA printer on campus and swipe your CalCard and retrieve the job,” said Carson.

Print kiosks are integrated with Desire2Learn, Cal U’s learning management system, and also with cloud storage such as OneDrive, Google Docs and Dropbox.

“Previously in the residence halls,

students could only print from a computer in that hall’s lab,” said George Albert, UTech Client Services Manager.

“Now they can print from a laptop or other device in their room and go down to get their job at any time.”

Albert also said that over the past year, the USB “flash” drive was the second most-used printing format used by students.

“Students are not even using computers much anymore. They’re just bringing USB drives right up to the printers and printing from their flash drives,” Albert said.

To learn more about the cloud-based printing options at Cal U, visit calu.edu/inside/utech/printing.

‘Elf The Musical’ Auditions Sept. 7

It’s a holiday treat at Cal U for fans of *Elf*.

For the first time, a license to perform the stage version — *Elf The Musical* — is available to educational and amateur theaters, and Cal U has secured the production for 2019 and 2020.

Elf The Musical, based on the 2003 motion picture starring Will Ferrell, will be performed at 7 p.m. Nov. 21-23, with matinees at 2 p.m. Nov. 23-24.

Auditions will be held Sept. 7 in Steele Hall and are open to the public. Auditioners should dress appropriately, bring their own shoes and report 30 minutes before their audition times to the Blaney Theater lobby entrance at the rear of Steele Hall.

Performers auditioning for actor/singer/dancer roles should prepare a musical theater selection between 16 and 32 bars in length and arrive ready to dance.

The audition schedule is:

- 10 a.m.-noon, children ages 5-12 (under 5 feet tall)
- noon-1 p.m., dancers only, ages 10 to adult
- 1-2:30 p.m., teens and adults (ensemble)
- 3 p.m. callbacks

For more information, call 724-938-4220.

Leading the Way in Student Health

Cal U is leading the way in prioritizing the health of students.

The University is a pilot location for the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment program, or SBIRT. The voluntary program is used to identify, reduce and prevent problematic use of drugs and alcohol.

Professionals at Cal U's Wellness Center use the model to assess students for risky behaviors, provide feedback and advice, and refer them for additional treatment if necessary.

The project is funded through a \$175,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Grant partners are Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education and the University of Pittsburgh's Program Evaluation and Research Unit, which is providing technical assistance.

"SBIRT is a very systematic way to make sure every student is offered the same universal screening and given the opportunity, if they qualify based on that screening, for a brief intervention," said Donna George, a Cal U employee and coordinator for the Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education's Alcohol and Other Drugs Coalition.



Tina Pierce (left), nurse practitioner; Debra Anderson, nurse supervisor; and Donna George, coordinator for the Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education's Alcohol and Other Drugs Coalition.

The coalition implements strategies to reduce dangerous drinking and drug abuse on all 14 System campuses.

"We've had SBIRT only a short time, but there's plenty of research that shows that it does produce positive outcomes," George said.

"The implementation of the SBIRT

program has proven to be a positive and helpful addition to the assessment process of our students," said Debra Anderson, Cal U's nurse supervisor.

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Coalition is proposing that SBIRT become the standard prevention program for State System universities. Kutztown

University will start a program this fall.

"It gives our nurses and clinicians another tool that they can be confident is effective and works," George said. "What this does is give students information — but more importantly an opportunity — through motivational interviewing to become educated and challenged to change, reflect about their use and get feedback."

Cal U's representatives on the coalition are Rachel Michaels, AOD education specialist; Jim Pflugh, associate dean for student conduct; and Joy Helsel, director for fraternity and sorority life. Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs, serves as the coalition's vice chair.

George praised Cal U for being a SBIRT pilot site.

"It's just a fact that a lot of young adults have substance use disorders and many feared that by using SBIRT we're opening that can of worms but frankly it's already open," George said.

"If you are able to prevent and catch things early on and give students the opportunity to change behaviors before it gets too problematic, they will hopefully improve their health, stay in school and succeed."

Art Professor Heads North

This fall, Jim Bové, assistant professor in the Department of Art and Languages, will board a ship for an expedition to the Arctic Circle.

Bové will use the 19 days on board to create a new body of artwork using computer aided design based on the spectacular landscape of the Arctic region.

The Faculty Professional Development Council provided a \$7,500 grant for Bove's project: "Shadows of the Midnight Sun: Traveling to the Arctic Circle in Search of Inspiration."

"What drew me to pursue this opportunity was the expedition's mission to provide an opportunity for artists and scientists to pursue individual as well as collaborative projects on board," said Bové, who is on sabbatical in 2019-2020.

He will use 3D-modeling software along with traditional art techniques to create a new body of artwork based on the sketches, photos and videos he will make during the expedition to the Arctic Circle.

"The arts have always been the leaders in using technology in new and creative ways," he added.

Bové's new set of skills using 3D software and 3D printers will be brought into the classroom at Cal U. His students have already benefited from field trips to top industry design sites that Bové has organized.

"They've learned first-hand that 3D modeling as well as traditional hand skills are essential to finding the best and most creative jobs out there," Bové said. "Today's students must be able to handle a wider range of processes than before, and Cal U is preparing them for that future."



Jim Bové

Academic Honors for Vulcans

Though the Vulcans athletic programs were idle during the summer months, they did receive many team and individual honors for their success in the classroom this past spring.

Women's Volleyball

For the second-straight year, the women's volleyball team earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award.

The award honors teams that displayed excellence in the classroom during the school year by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point-average (GPA).

Cal U volleyball posted a 3.69 GPA.

It marks the eighth time in program history that Cal U has received the honor.

Track and Field

Both the women's and men's track and field programs were honored by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association as All-Academic Teams.

For all-academic team status, a program must obtain a cumulative team GPA of 3.00 or higher.

The Cal U women's track and field team received the honor for the ninth-straight season and for the 11th time in the past 12 years after posting a 3.31 GPA.

On the men's side, the Vulcans received this accolade for the fifth time in the past nine seasons, after recording a 3.04 GPA.

Recent Cal U graduate and cross country athlete Alicia Belko was selected a Google Cloud Second-Team Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Belko achieved a 4.00 GPA while earning her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion (performance enhancement and injury prevention) in December.

After winning the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region and PSAC individual championships she earned All-America status by placing 25th overall at the NCAA national meet.

Golf

Junior Ryan Smith was tabbed a Srixon/Cleveland Golf All-America Scholar by the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA).

To be eligible for this honor, a junior or senior golfer must compete in at least three full years at the collegiate level, participate in at least 50 percent of the team's competitive rounds, have a stroke-average under 78.0 in NCAA Division II and a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher.

Smith owns a 3.68 cumulative GPA while majoring in sport management with a concentration in professional golf management and a minor in business.

This past season he had a team-best scoring average of 76.2 strokes while posting five top-15 finishes. Smith concluded the year by finishing 10th overall at the NCAA Atlantic/East Region Championships.

Swimming

The women's swimming program was recognized as a Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America Scholar All-America Team for the 17th-consecutive season.

The Vulcans were honored for their cumulative 3.48 grade-point average during the 2019 spring semester. The CSCAA Scholar All-America Team is presented to swimming and diving teams who achieve a 3.00 or higher GPA in the semester/quarter coinciding with the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships.

Cal U was one of eight PSAC women's swimming programs recognized this year.

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Geraldine M. Jones
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for Academic Affairs

Christine Kindl
Vice President for Communications
and Marketing

Anthony Mauro
Vice President for University
Development and Alumni Relations

Bruce Wald
Writer

Office of Communications and Public Relations

250 University Avenue

California, PA 15419

724-938-4195

wald@calu.edu