

## Lupe Anguiano

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**From:** "Mimi Kairschner" <MKairschner@vcccd.edu>  
**To:** "Lupe Anguiano" <languiano@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2008 12:54 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Class Presentation

Dear Lupe:

I am so excited to see you and your fellow CAUSE/Stewards of the Earth members this semester, and I am particularly looking forward to the presentation on service learning that you will give to them. I believe that you will be able to get my students all fired up in a way that is necessary for a commitment to such projects. So, I would like to invite you to my English Composition class that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00-2:50p.m. in HSS 222. The best day for us (after the final exits and entrances of students has slowed down) would be in the third week, on Wednesday, Jan 23 (Monday is a holiday that week.) Would that date and time work well for you? If not, let's find an alternate one.

I was lucky enough to receive one of the Partnership grants for Service Learning for the Environment, (CSUCI/Moorpark College) so my plan is to include a service learning component in one section of my English composition classes this current semester. Here at Moorpark College, we are celebrating the Year of the Environment, our theme for the year, with many speakers, films, and projects during each month. I am pleased about the way in which the Service Learning project will so nicely dovetail with our current theme.

Each of the students in any of my writing classes must produce four formal essays, each of which goes through several drafts before final submission. Generally, these would be an analysis of some readings, an essay or a book, or a research paper. However, for this class, I would like for the students to write one of those major assignments in response to, and likely arguing for, their service learning experience. I have told them that you will visit our class and they may then sign up at that time for one of the environmental organizations represented. Will any or all of their work be in the east county?? If not, some students might have a transportation problem if they are asked to go to Oxnard or Ventura.

I have said in the class already that each student must donate a minimum of eight hours to the chosen organization since it will be 1/4 of their preparation for the entire class. I spoke to Therese Eyermann after I received the grant, and she said that the woman who had been on the committee to approve the grants wanted us, since this is a writing class, to add a writing component to the service work. This might take the form of writing letters for the organization, creating advertising, or any other similar task that you might need for them to help you with. That seems to me to be a good use of their developing composition skills while putting them in a situation in which they can help you and also learn about the environment.

My own desire for the outcome for these students in the program is that they be exposed to a project that will teach them about the interconnectedness of the elements of ecological systems. My experience with students this age is that they will say that "nature is nice," but that, with a few exceptions, they don't have a real sense of the interdependence of living organisms. These are young people who primarily see themselves as individual units, rather than as part of a community, so the issue really is for them to be exposed to a new paradigm, a new way of thinking about the world and acting in it

I plan to have the students, prior to writing their reports, present their results in class in a series of panel discussions. This will be in preparation for more public panel presentation or presentations: Here at Moorpark College we have had an annual "alternate day of instruction," called Multicultural Day each April. It is an amazing and very successful event with booths from many organizations representing diverse cultures and ethnicities. In any one hour, there might be ten separate events, from an international fashion show, to a political gathering, a songfest, a poetry reading, bagpipe playing, Native American dancing, and a Tai Kwon Do demonstration. The events are just as varied the next hour and the next, all through the day--virtually well over a hundred. There are also food booths celebrating the cuisine of numerous countries and ethnicities, as well as booths selling jewelry, clothing, etc. from many lands. This year there will be a number of events concerning the environment, since it is our theme for the year. For Multicultural Day, I would like to have my students from our mutual environmental project present a panel discussion, or several panels, on their service learning experience, a more polished

version of the ones given by them to our class.

I would also like to extend an unofficial invitation to you to have a booth or an event at Multi Cultural Day if someone hasn't signed you up already. I can get you in touch with the planners here on campus for that event if you would like for me to. Your organization would be an ideal group for a booth or for an event/presentation.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you immensely for your willingness to help my students.

Sincerely,  
Mimi Kairschner

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11/07/2007 12:32 PM

To "Jerrold R. Caplan, Ph.D." <jrcaplan@vcccd.edu>

cc "Mimi Kairschner, Professor" <mkairschner@vcccd.net>, "Carmen Ramirez" <ramirezmar@gmail.com>, "Cesar Hernandez" <cesar@coastalalliance.com>, "Beatriz Garcia"

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Subject Class Presentation

Jerrold,

Delighted with the opportunity to speak to your Moorpark College Humanities Class and that of Professor Mimi Kairschner. We discussed the presentation at our CAUSE Team meeting yesterday and wanted to propose the following plan to you and Professor Mimi - see what you think.

1. We, CAUSE - would like to start the presentation, to your classes, by reviewing the career benefits and community advantages of participating in "Service Learning" and "Civic Engagement" activities (words can be changed if you wish).
2. I thought it would be best to have our young CAUSE staff make the presentation; names are Cesar Hernandez and Beatriz Garcia - they have outstanding result experience working with young people - such as your students. Carmen Ramirez and I will also be available to participate in the presentation if needed.
3. The issues we would like to present to the students, besides the "Clearwater Port LNG," issue will be important issues that CAUSE is working on such as Transportation, livable wage issues etc.
4. If OK with you we would like to make the presentations at the beginning of the new semester - which I believe is in January 2008.

What do you think? we are excited about working with you and Mimi Kairschner at Moorpark College. I see this as an opportunity to develop a MODEL - that we can use with other Community College and CSUCI Classes.

1/11/2008

Lupe Anguiano  
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a CAUSE Project  
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