



## CSUCI to Offer New Course in Microfinance

Camarillo, Calif., Aug. 20, 2009 - California State University Channel Islands will introduce a new course in microfinance beginning fall 2009 available to both the community and CSUCI students. The new course will explore the theory and practice of microfinance; the history, those involved, the impact, and next stages of microfinance around the world. Guest speakers from the most prominent microfinance organizations in the country will be leading each class.

Microfinance started out as small loans that helped the poor start a business, earn income, build assets and move from mere survival to planning for their future. It has expanded to savings, mortgages and many other products. Deutsche Bank estimates that over 100 million poor people have benefited from microfinance. However, \$250 billion is needed to enable the billion people who live on less than \$1 a day to work their way out of poverty.

The course will be held every other Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. beginning August 27. Presentations with various guest speakers include:

- \* Aug. 27, Introduction to Microfinance and the Local Perspective: Rudy Estrada, Director, CSUCI Small Business Institute
- \* Sept. 10, Role of Village Technology in Microfinance: Peter Bladin, Executive Vice President and Founding Director Grameen Foundation
- \* Sept. 24, Microfinance: Commercialization and Next Stages of Microfinance: Leslie Theodore, Senior Development Officer, Accion International
- \* Oct. 8, Bringing the Corporate World to Microfinance: Paul Blyth, Head of Finance, Microplace
- \* Oct. 22, Economics of Microfinance: Ashish Vaidya, Dean of Faculty, CSU Channel Islands
- \* Nov. 5, Microfinance through the Internet: Isabelle Barres, Vice President Microfinance Partnerships, [www.Kiva.org](http://www.Kiva.org)
- \* Nov. 19, Microfinance - A Platform for Other Social Development: George Guimaraes, CEO, Project Concern International (PCI)
- \* Dec. 3, Microfinance on a Local Level: A Ventura County Perspective: Marsha Bailey, Founder and CEO, Women's Economic Ventures.

For additional information call 805-437-2748 or to register for the course visit: <http://www.csuci.edu/exed/enrollment.htm>.

Media inquiries may be directed to Nancy Covarrubias Gill, Director of Communication & Marketing at CSU Channel Islands at 805-437-8456 or [nancy.gill@csuci.edu](mailto:nancy.gill@csuci.edu).

###

*CSU Channel Islands is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.*

*CSUCI Mission Statement*

*Placing students at the center of the educational experience, California State University Channel Islands provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives.*