Our founders envisioned it, our students aspire to it, and our world demands it.
Cardinal Service
Elevating and Expanding Service as a Distinctive Feature of a Stanford Education

Stanford students and alumni are known throughout the world for their brilliance in problem solving and success as entrepreneurs. Our faculty have inspired and trained generations of students to tackle some of the world’s largest and most intractable challenges. When people think of Stanford University, they think of Nobel prize-winning faculty, pioneering research, technological innovation, unparalleled athletics, and exemplary academics.

But now, more than ever, we also need skilled and devoted citizens at the local, national, and global levels. Today’s complex social, political, and environmental challenges are a clarion call for Stanford University to weave public service more deeply into our rich tapestry of tradition, identity, and culture.

We are already doing a great deal to support Stanford students to engage in public service. But this element of the Stanford experience has not had the visibility—on campus or in the broader perception of the University—that is called for. Nor has it reached as many students as are ready and eager to take up the challenge. Most recently, two terms of ASSU student government executives and the Editorial Board of The Stanford Daily have called on the University to make public service a greater part of students’ experience.

That is why we have launched Cardinal Service—a bold university-wide initiative to elevate and expand public service as a distinctive feature of a Stanford education.

Cardinal Service is igniting far-reaching collaboration across the campus to make public service a Cardinal value—a core part of Stanford’s DNA. It builds on the 30-year tradition of the Haas Center for Public Service, inspiring our students to form life-long habits of serving the public good.

With the Haas Center in a catalytic role, Cardinal Service has broad support from the President, the Provost, and the Vice Provosts for Student Affairs, Undergraduate Education, Graduate Education, and Teaching and Learning, as well as a growing array of deans, faculty, and students.

Cardinal Service focuses on four dimensions that have proven transformative in the lives of our students: a full-time, quarter-long service experience (Cardinal Quarter); community engaged learning classes (Cardinal Courses); sustained service engagement (Cardinal Commitment); and support to integrate service into any career and pursue work in the public interest (Cardinal Careers).

“We must continue to ask ourselves how we can each make a difference in advancing justice, peace, and understanding around the world and on our campus.”

– Marc Tessier-Lavigne, President, Stanford University
Cardinal Quarter
Students engage in a full-time summer or quarter-long public service experience with Stanford support.

More than 450 full-time summer or quarter-long public service experiences are offered by more than 30 campus programs to help students build knowledge, skills, and networks while making meaningful contributions to communities. By 2020, Stanford will support 500 students to pursue a Cardinal Quarter each year.

Cardinal Courses
Students enroll in courses that integrate a community experience, examine a public issue, and explore civic identities.

More than 1,700 students enroll in more than 130 community engaged learning courses to apply classroom knowledge to social and environmental issues. Faculty offer Cardinal Courses across 30 departments or programs, integrating academics with service. By 2020, this will grow to 150 courses each year.

“At Stanford you join a diverse, joyful, and collaborative campus community with a shared determination to change the world. You are part of something larger than yourself at Stanford, and your unique perspective will contribute to our extraordinary community. Most importantly, Stanford is a place to grow and begin to define your place in the world.”

– Richard H. Shaw, Stanford Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, 2015 letter to admitted students
**Cardinal Commitment**  
**Students make and sustain a significant service commitment.**

Students make and sustain commitments to issues and organizations through signature Stanford programs and more than 100 student-led service organizations. We will help students consider how they can declare a major and a mission through strengthened advising, reflection, and leadership development. By 2020, we will engage 600 students in making a Cardinal Commitment each year.

**Cardinal Careers**  
**Students are encouraged to integrate service into any career and are supported to pursue work in the public interest.**

Stanford offers high-impact recruiting and networking events, online tools to explore internship and career opportunities, and coaching tailored to students’ professional interests. By 2020, we will support 30 percent of graduating seniors to pursue work in the public interest through Cardinal Careers.

“My summer Cardinal Quarter experience through the TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy pushed my boundaries on a daily basis. My team’s project on using solar PV as a path to financial benefits for economically disadvantaged public schools in California wasn’t a straightforward one, and no simple solution was provided to us. Through my service I became much more intentional in tying methodology to desired impact, and gained a clearer picture of what I bring to the table in collaborative settings.”

– Chiamaka Kenneth Ogwuegbu, ’18, Cardinal Quarter participant
Building a Legacy of Greater Service

Cardinal Service represents the most significant expansion and elevation of public service at Stanford since the establishment of the Haas Center for Public Service in 1985.

As in 1985, Stanford is leading its peers toward a civic resurgence in higher education. Bolstered by three decades of experience and innovation, the fundamental pieces are in place to foster a stronger culture of service among undergraduate students as well as graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

In defining the character of Stanford University in its earliest days, Jane Stanford called upon students to “be of greater service to the public.”

Today more than ever, Stanford students yearn for opportunities not just to serve, but to apply the knowledge they are gaining and the skills they are developing toward the creation of a more just and sustainable world.

Expanding Transformative Service Experiences

93% of student respondents rated their 2015 Cardinal Quarter experience as “excellent” or “good”

70% of freshmen and sophomores surveyed are interested in participating in Cardinal Quarter

94% of host organization respondents rated their experience hosting students as “valuable” or “extremely valuable”

96% of Cardinal Course student respondents would recommend community engaged learning courses to their peers

“I am a first-generation, low-income student from Turlock, CA. Low-income students at Stanford face two key educational obstacles. First, we lack the financial resources other students have to pursue career-related interests. Second, because we can’t accrue professional experiences, our education tends to be less exploratory than other students’—we don’t develop the confidence from learning how we can apply our education in a professional setting and perhaps more importantly, we don’t know in what direction we should shape our education to find our place in the world. After completing a fellowship with the California Department of Education’s Data Analysis Division, I’m able to say that my place in the world is at the intersection of government, data, and technology to create better institutions of American democracy and for me, this means two words that in my time at Stanford I thought I would never hear myself say: computer science.”

– Corey Garcia, ’16
Gift Opportunities for Cardinal Service

In addition to unrestricted support for Cardinal Service, donors can also target their support for current and future generations of Stanford students to serve on issues they care about at the local, national, and international levels.

Cardinal Quarter (CQ) Gift Opportunities
Goal: Endow 100 more opportunities

Campus Partners include: Bill Lane Center for the American West, HANDA Center for Human Rights and International Justice (H&S), Seed, Stanford Arts, Stanford Global Studies, Stanford in Government, and others.

- $1,000,000 endows a cohort of 5-6 CQ fellowships
- $175,000 endows one CQ fellowship annually

Cardinal Commitment, Cardinal Course, and Cardinal Career Opportunity Funds

Naming opportunities start at $1,000,000.

Highest priorities:
- Local Education Partnerships
- Leadership development
- Graduate Public Service Fellowship
- Course development in education, engineering, environment, health, human rights, and identity

Matching Funds for Cardinal Service

Matching funds at a ratio of 3 to 5 are available for endowment gifts of $175,000 or more; i.e., a gift of $500,000 will generate an additional $300,000 to support the unrestricted needs of the Cardinal Service Program.

For more information about Cardinal Service, please contact:

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