The Office of Mentoring and Service Learning (OMSL) is unique both nationally and campuswide because it works to achieve its mission through two innovative student support programs: Peer Mentoring and Service Learning. The OMSL is able to offer support to student success and retention across all disciplines, both academic and vocational, and to both credit and noncredit students.

Established in the spring of 2000 by Frank Cheng, Dean of Student Affairs, and Rita Gibson, Coordinator, the OMSL is currently run by the Coordinator, Christine Franciscus, Alicia Martinez, Office Assistant, and Camilla Bidder, Coordinator of Project SHINE. MaryLou Levy Frank is the Acting Dean of Student Affairs.

Over the past 8 semesters, the program has almost tripled in size, from 16 initial projects to 50 current projects, and now involves approximately 2700 CCSF students as peer mentors, service-learning students, or refundees of project support.

To find out more about our Mentoring or Service-Learning projects, call Chris Francisco at (415) 239-3771 or drop by our office in Science Hall, Room 116.

**Benefits of Peer-Mentoring and Service-Learning**

The majority of mentors and students say that given the opportunity, they would participate in a mentoring or service-learning project again. They point out many benefits from their participation:

- Increased understanding of course material
- Personal satisfaction from helping others
- Increased confidence and knowledge
- Increased communication and interpersonal skill
- Sense of being part of a community
- Increased knowledge and sensitivity to the challenges others face
- Increased knowledge of City College resources and programs
- Experience and skills that can be put on a resume

**What is Service-Learning?**

Educational and service institutions define service-learning differently, but most agree that service-learning integrates community service with academic instruction so that each strengthens the other.

The Office of Mentoring and Service Learning defines Service Learning as a teaching and learning method that combines community service and classroom instruction, with a focus on critical, reflective thinking as well as personal and civic responsibility. Service-learning redefines the classroom experience and makes significant contributions to individuals, organizations, and neighborhoods.

**Service Learning @ CCSF**

In our Service-Learning program, faculty sponsors either design a service-learning component that is directly related to their course curriculum or they give students academic credit for community service that students do that has been designed through another program that is related to their coursework. Some of our current and former projects:

- **Astronomy Observing and Outreach**, Designing Community Health (Health Science and Graphic Communications), Free Mason Composition Service-Learning Project (English 1A and 90), Habitat Restoration at Alton's Head Park, Hope (Hands on Practical Education) for Child Development, Project SHINE and SAIL, Recording Workshops and Mentoring for Girls, San Francisco Boys and Girls Club, Seeing with New Eyes (ESL 70 and Roda Rescue Light House for the Blind), Self-Helping from Sexual Violence Project for Women, Service Learning for Future Teachers, Transgender Voices/Transgender Rights.