

The Missing Community College Students A Statewide Art Installation for Community College Advocacy



Background

Because we believe there could be community college budget cuts for both the current year (03-04) and the budget year (04-05), we believe there will be a need to build both public awareness of and political support for the community colleges. To that end, we propose that all the community colleges in the state participate in "The Missing Community College Student" project.

History

Many cities across the nation have developed citywide art installations to raise funds, bring art to the people, and develop beautiful and fun pieces of art and often transmit a powerful message simultaneously. For example, San Jose installed sharks, D. C. installed donkeys and elephants, Vienna did horses.

Here is how it works. A life size fiberglass model of a cow, for example, is given to many different artists for development into pieces of art. Upon completion they are installed around the city for a period of time. Then they are auctioned off to raise funds for a specific purpose.

The Proposal

At the November 4, 2003 meeting of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges a study was released that stated over 175,000 community college students had been denied access to classes. Additionally, in the Capitol there has been talk of narrowing the scope of who the community colleges serve and again denying access to adult Californians. Because the open access policy is fundamental to the mission of the California community colleges, we think we need to do “The Missing Community College Student” art installation project.

Two life size molds—one male and one female—will be sculpted. Then about 300 fiberglass models would be produced (about one for every 500 missing students) for development into art pieces representing the broad diversity of our community college students across the state. We hope that students from each college would turn two of these life size models into a “Missing Community College Student.”

Upon completion, individual colleges would temporarily install the “missing students” on their local campus. The media would be notified of the number of sections closed and the number of students denied access to an education.

Then, starting the week before the March in March, they would be shipped to the receiving address in Sacramento. At the time of the second March on behalf of Community Colleges (tentatively scheduled for March 15), all of the “Missing Community College Students” would be installed on the Capitol lawn or on the median strip down Capitol Mall or other appropriate locations. The idea is that on the day of the March, the current students would join the “Missing” students for a rally in support of the community colleges. However, additional students could be added so that more and more students are added throughout the budget process, such as at the time of May Revise, throughout the June budget deliberations, and throughout the summer or as long as it takes to get a budget.

Afterwards, the art pieces would be auctioned off to fund further advocacy efforts on behalf of the community colleges. Additional fund raising efforts might include smaller versions, coffee mugs, greeting cards, t-shirts, etc.

In order to be ready for a March installation, your urgent attention to this advocacy effort is needed in November and December of 2003. Participation and ordering information is enclosed. For additional information on the project, questions and suggestions, please visit the CalSACC web page at www.calsacc.org or contact P.J. Johnson, CalSACC President at president@calsacc.org, Karla Fuentes-Rivera, CalSACC Treasurer at Treasurer@calsacc.org , or Leslie Smith at 415.452.5132 or lsmith@ccsf.edu. To get copies of forms, see pictures, or download order forms go to www.keepthedoorsopen.org. It is of utmost importance to get your orders in as quickly as possible.

The California Community College Missing Students Project Participation/Order Form

1. Lead Contact Person

Name _____

Shipping & Mailing Address _____

Telephone and Fax _____

E-Mail _____

2. Organizational Information

Organization Name _____

Specific Community College Affiliation _____

3. Order Details for Missing Student Prototypes

Instructions:

Complete the form below and send 2 checks to Leslie Smith. The first check is payable to Peterson Products, Inc. for the missing student prototypes. The second required check should be made payable to UPS and will cover the \$20 shipping fee for each prototype. Colleges will be responsible for shipping the finished prototypes per the attached timeline/logistics sheet.

Orders received by December 15, 2003 are guaranteed for delivery by February 15, 2004

ITEM	COST (applicable tax is included)	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Female Missing Student	\$433.00 each		
Male Missing Student	\$433.00 each		
TOTAL Payable to Peterson Products, Inc.			
Shipping via UPS	\$21.00 each		
TOTAL Payable to UPS			
GRAND TOTAL enclosed in two separate checks			

Please mail checks to Leslie Smith, 50 Phelan Ave., E201, San Francisco, CA 94112