Community Service Award: Student

Kayla Crow
Political Science

Kayla Crow has rallied against budget cuts to education, and executive pay raises in a time when education is under attack. She has stood alongside hotel workers on picket lines and during boycotts, and has spoken out at City Council and Planning Commission meetings against the displacing of community members.

A Political Science and English double major, Crow is passionate about improving the quality of life in Long Beach. Her desire to help others, especially victims of inequality and poverty, began in 2007 when she started working with One Imagination - a group known for open mics, plays addressing social justice issues, and youth programs for the community.

In 2008, Crow joined CSULB’s Political Science Student Association (PSSA). She served as treasurer in 2009-2010, vice president in 2010-2011. This year, as President, she is working to make politics accessible, interesting, and inspiring outside of the classroom.

Crow is currently an organizing intern with the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, an organization aimed at influencing public policy related to good jobs, bettering the environment, and community development.

Last year, Crow began volunteering with the Long Beach Coalition for Good Jobs and a Healthy Community, an organization that promotes responsible development, affordable housing, and healthy communities. Through the coalition, Crow has helped groups and organizations come together in support of each other’s efforts to improve the quality of life in Long Beach. One example has been the Long Beach Rising! Civic Engagement program which trained new community organizers, conducted voter outreach, and taught coalition building to strengthen campaigns.

This month, Crow joined the American Civil Liberties Union at the state capitol to lobby for bills that would reform deportation, drug charges and incarceration, and strengthen and increase accessibility to reproductive healthcare.

After commencement this May, Crow will be focusing on community and labor organizing while participating in Organizing Beyond Barriers through Unite Here!

Community Service Award: Alumni

Khin Sandar Aung
Health Care Administration

Growing up in Burma, Khin Sandar Aung often saw people living in poverty without adequate health care. Dedicated to making a difference, she began volunteering at a school for orphaned children and low-income families when she was just 12 years old.

In 2000, Aung came to the United States as an international student at Orange Coast College. In 2005 she transferred to CSULB.

While a student here, Aung participated in a global forum organized by the Alliance Towards Harnessing Global Opportunity (ATHGO). The forum focused on drafting a proposal to the United Nations about its Millennium Development Goals. Aung’s enthusiasm and leadership at that event earned her internships helping with ATHGO’s future forums. As an intern, she assisted diplomats, presenters and participants and facilitated group debates at annual global warming forums at the United Nations in New York and at UCLA.

In 2007, she gained a greater understanding of the implications of global policy on poor nations while volunteering at the Economic Development Project at the World Bank. In 2011, she served as a group leader, assisting entrepreneurs from around the world at ATHGO’s Constructive Entrepreneurship and Climate Change forum at the World Bank.

Aung has also volunteered at St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach as a community outreach specialist, promoting health care services at special events and health fairs.

Aung earned her bachelor’s degree in Health Care Administration in 2007. An active student, she was president of the International Student Association, the Associated Student government representative on the International Education Committee and a member of the International Retreat Committee.

Aung currently works at Memorial HealthCare IPA and OptumHealth/UnitedHealth Group in Signal Hill as a quality and compliance physician relations and data collection specialist. She is a board member on CSULB’s Health Care Administration Alumni Network and is involved in numerous professional organizations.