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

When people think of Stanford University, they think of exemplary academics, Nobel Prize-winning faculty, pioneering research, high-tech innovation, and championship athletic teams. Yet today, more than ever, our complex social, political, and environmental issues call for Stanford University to contribute to the public good and to weave public service even more deeply into our rich tapestry of tradition, identity, and culture.

Cardinal Service—a bold, university-wide initiative to elevate and expand public service as a distinctive feature of a Stanford education—is the most significant advancement of public service at Stanford since the 1985 founding of the Haas Center for Public Service, one of the nation’s first comprehensive higher education public service centers.

Cardinal Service has ignited far-reaching campus collaboration to make service:

• An essential part of the Stanford educational experience, through opportunities available to every student, and an important reason students choose to attend Stanford;
• A source of rich, enduring partnerships with communities beyond the campus;
• A means for our extraordinary students, mentored by our world-class faculty, to work at the forefront of discovery and have an impact on the great challenges confronting society in health, education, the environment, human rights, international security, and many other fields;
• A pathway to lifetimes of active citizenship and public service careers; and
• A catalyst for elevating public service as a central purpose of higher education.

At the University’s founding Jane Stanford said, “While the instruction offered must be such as will qualify the students for personal success and direct usefulness in life, they should understand that it is offered in the hope and trust that they will become thereby of greater service to the public.”

Stanford students yearn to fulfill this vision through opportunities to apply the knowledge and leadership skills they are gaining toward creating a more just and sustainable world.

This is a defining moment in the history of the University, the nation, and the world. Cardinal Service is a cornerstone of Stanford’s research, teaching, and service to benefit humanity. Not only does this commitment define the character and culture of the institution and its graduates, Stanford is leading its peers toward a civic resurgence in higher education.

Our founders envisioned it, our students aspire to it, and our world demands it.
Expanding Transformative Service Experiences

Cardinal Quarter
Students engage in a full-time summer or quarter-long public service experience with Stanford support.

Nearly 500 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 2,400 students enroll in more than 150 community engaged learning courses to apply classroom knowledge to social and environmental issues. Faculty offer Cardinal Courses across more than 40 departments or programs, integrating academics with service. By 2020, this will grow to 200 courses each year.

Cardinal Commitment
Students make and sustain a significant service commitment through an organization or program.

Students make and sustain a significant service commitment through more than 30 programs or organizations. We encourage students to declare a major and a mission. 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.

“Great research universities are resilient and purposeful, educating future leaders and advancing knowledge. They are a source of light and hope in the world, even in the most troubled times. That resilience has propelled Stanford to its current preeminence as a purposeful university—one that promotes and celebrates excellence not as an end in itself, but as a means to magnify its benefit to society; a university that, relentlessly, educates students to be global citizens and leaders, fosters unlimited creativity, and discovers and applies knowledge for the benefit of humanity.”

– Marc Tessier-Lavigne, President, Stanford University
Building a Legacy of Greater Service

By 2020 Stanford will be firmly on a course to produce the next generation of civic-minded leaders. Through real-world service experiences, academic coursework, and leadership development, Stanford students will delve into the great social and environmental needs of our time.

Over the last two years, we have seen tremendous momentum behind Cardinal Service, which focuses on four dimensions proven to be transformative in the lives of our students: Cardinal Quarter, Cardinal Courses, Cardinal Commitment, and Cardinal Careers. Our aim is to encourage every student to engage in service at Stanford, and in turn, to develop a commitment and an understanding of how to be of service in their careers and in their lives.

Through **Cardinal Quarter**, 434 students from 44 majors served full-time in 149 cities and 41 countries in summer 2017. (Another 52 students served during the academic year through programs such as Stanford in Washington and Stanford in New York.)

To ensure that both students and organizations benefit fully, Haas Center program directors and more than 30 campus partners provide wraparound programming that includes faculty and staff mentors, courses and workshops on ethical and effective service practices, and reflection activities.

Cardinal Quarter also reflects Stanford’s commitment to making world-class educational experiences available to all students, regardless of financial background. Participants receive a $5,000 stipend, and additional support depending on placement location and financial aid status, without which a summer of service would be impossible for many students.

The demand for Cardinal Quarter experiences far outpaces the opportunities available—in 2017, 1,092 students applied for 486 opportunities. University research shows that 76 percent of Stanford first-year students are interested in pursuing a summer of public service during their undergraduate experience.
Cardinal Courses are fundamentally changing teaching and learning at Stanford by placing community engagement at the fore of academic excellence. In the last four years, the number of community engaged learning courses at Stanford has more than tripled, and more than 120 faculty teach Cardinal Courses.

Over 80 percent of students surveyed consistently report that the community experience deepens their understanding of the course material; likewise, community partners also consistently give satisfaction ratings of 97–100 percent. Faculty interest in teaching a Cardinal Course continues to grow, as demonstrated by annual requests for course grants to provide support such as student transportation to partner sites and course coordinators to manage logistics, that far exceed available funding.

Through Cardinal Commitment, students receive support and mentorship to make ongoing service commitments, including through the Haas Center’s Education Partnerships (EdP) programs. In the last two years, there was a 28 percent increase in Stanford student participation in EdP programs, and a 73 percent increase in local youth served.

Our hope is that high-quality Cardinal Service experiences build a pipeline for public service leadership. Stanford’s 2016 Senior Survey conveyed that six percent of graduating seniors plan to pursue first jobs in the government sector and 17 percent in the nonprofit sector. Through Cardinal Careers, we provide high-impact connections for students integrating public interest work into careers across sectors, and our goal is to increase the number going into public service positions to 30 percent of the graduating class by 2020.

Transformative public service experiences prepare students to succeed in a society that is increasingly diverse and a world that is increasingly interconnected. There is no better time to invest in this new chapter in Stanford’s history—one that propels students, the university, and institutions of higher education to develop the leadership and bold new ideas needed to address the pressing issues of our time.
Gift Opportunities for Cardinal Service

In addition to unrestricted support for Cardinal Service, donors can 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 80 more opportunities

Campus Partners include: Bill Lane Center for the American West, WSD Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice, 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 unrestricted needs for Cardinal Service.

For more information, please contact:
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