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

Stanford University President Marc Tessier-Lavigne has called upon the Stanford community to “commit to being a purposeful university, a courageous university, a university of unlimited potential.”

These words capture a vision for Stanford as a university in which “education” means not just developing knowledge and skills, but also the ability and disposition to be engaged and effective global citizens—a university that prepares students not just for careers, but for life. There has never been a greater need for leaders with the capacity and commitment to address complex social challenges. Throughout campus, Stanford is working collaboratively with local, national, and global partners to resolve social, economic, and environmental challenges at every level.

A core component of these efforts is Cardinal Service—a bold, university-wide initiative to elevate and expand service as a distinctive feature of a Stanford education. Through hands-on service experiences, academic coursework, community-engaged research, and leadership development, Stanford students develop the habits of active democratic participation and form their civic identity. Cardinal Service draws on a network of students, faculty, staff, and local and global community partners dedicated to cultivating civic identity through transformative service experiences for students and through the integration of high-impact teaching, learning, and research.

**Transformative service:** Students seek opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills—in fields from computer science to the humanities and public policy—to address real-world problems and have meaningful social impact. Cardinal Service supports a range of experiences through which students encounter difference; clarify their values; participate in democratic practices; and work within and across the public, private, and independent sectors in multiple pathways of public service.

**High-impact teaching, learning, and research:** Cardinal Service forges new ways of learning on and off campus that build upon the enduring values of a liberal arts education while tapping the entrepreneurial spirit for which Stanford is known. Learning opportunities integrate the development of discipline-based skills with hands-on problem-solving and community service.

Stanford is poised to embark on a bold new chapter as a “purposeful university” and to lead a civic resurgence in higher education. Cardinal Service reflects Stanford’s commitment to public service as defining the character and culture of the University. The Haas Center, as the hub of Cardinal Service, and partners campus-wide are prepared to play a central role in reaffirming the core purpose of a Stanford education as the pursuit of academic excellence and service to benefit humanity.
Expanding Transformative Service Experiences

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

More than 500 full-time, summer or quarter-long public service experiences are offered by 40 campus programs to help students build knowledge, skills, and networks while making meaningful service contributions locally, nationally, and across the globe.

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

Each year nearly 2,800 students enroll in more than 180 community-engaged learning courses that apply classroom knowledge to social and environmental issues. More than 150 faculty and lecturers offer Cardinal Courses across 55 departments or programs, integrating academics with service.

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

More than 300 students sustain a significant service commitment each year through more than 70 programs or organizations. We encourage students to declare a major and a mission.

**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.

“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
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. 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.

In 2018, through Cardinal Quarter, more than 560 students served full-time in 55 countries and 177 cities around the world (including 88 cities in the United States).

To ensure that both students and organizations benefit fully, Stanford program directors provide wraparound programming that includes mentorship, workshops on ethical and effective service, and reflection activities. Ninety-four percent of student survey respondents rated their 2018 Cardinal Quarter experience as “excellent” or “good,” and 99 percent of community partners indicated students’ contributions were either “extremely valuable” or “valuable” to the organization.

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.

Cardinal Courses are fundamentally changing teaching and learning at Stanford by integrating community engagement and academic excellence. Over the last four years, community-engaged learning courses at Stanford have more than quadrupled.

Eighty-nine percent of students surveyed in 2018 reported that the community experience deepened their understanding of the course material; likewise, more than 80 percent of community partners reported being satisfied with their course experience. Faculty interest in teaching a Cardinal Course continues to grow, as demonstrated by increases in annual requests for course grants.

Through Cardinal Commitment, students receive support and mentorship to make ongoing service commitments, including through the Haas Center’s Education Partnerships programs. In 2018 more than 300 students made a Cardinal Commitment through 28 student-led service organizations, 20 campus programs, and 13 community organizations. Student commitments include tutoring children, registering voters, promoting environmental sustainability, raising funds for Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, and more.

Our hope is that high-quality Cardinal Service experiences build a pipeline for public service leadership. Through Cardinal Careers, we provide connections for students integrating public interest work into careers across sectors. More than 1,500 students participated in high-impact workshops, events, and advising in 2018.

As part of the university-wide effort, more than 200 staff and faculty serve as Cardinal Service Connectors, introducing students to service opportunities. Additionally, more than 300 alumni are actively involved in supporting students in service each year.

**Building a Legacy of Public Service**
Leveraging a Networked Approach to Cardinal Service: Promising Ideas for Next Steps

As the hub of Cardinal Service, the Haas Center for Public Service engages over 4,000 students annually through programs and outreach toward the realization of Cardinal Service as a university-wide endeavor. The Haas Center for Public Service National Advisory Board has identified four priority areas for Cardinal Service as part of Stanford’s long-range planning process. The Center is collaborating with campus partners and long-range planning teams to explore possible future directions in programming. These may include:

**Local Engagement: Stanford as an Anchor Institution**

We are considering how to improve coherence, coordination, and synergy in partnerships designed to address local challenges, such as affordable housing, climate change, and educational inequities. Stanford faculty, staff, and students participate in countless collaborations with local organizations to provide important services addressing social problems and amplifying solutions. Collaborating with local community organizations to help them navigate Stanford’s offerings and deepening university-community partnerships could improve outcomes and Stanford’s reputation in the region.

**Expanding Graduate Student Engagement**

A growing number of graduate students are expressing an interest in weaving public service into their careers and lives. The Haas Center currently engages graduate students through the Graduate Public Service Fellows program, a select number of Cardinal Quarter opportunities, Cardinal Courses, and Cardinal Careers events. Through information gathering, including focus groups and benchmarking efforts at other universities, we are identifying promising initiatives to expand on these efforts through Cardinal Service.

**Rethinking Time and Space**

We are considering new time and space frontiers for Cardinal Service, including four new possible directions:

- Cardinal Courses on the Road—uniquely intensive, cohort-based, interdisciplinary educational experiences focused on unique issues or unique locations with alumni connections and remote learning embedded;
- Building support for “bridge” year service as part of overall efforts to prepare students for success at Stanford;
- Expanding Cardinal Quarter opportunities during the academic year; and
- Linking Cardinal Service to short-term academic and co-curricular experiences to make them more widely available as part of the first-year experience.

**Expanding Stanford Engagement in Domestic Rural Areas**

We are exploring ways to increase public service engagement in rural areas in the United States where students will be exposed to social norms and beliefs that they are not likely to encounter at Stanford. Possible new directions include piloting Cardinal Quarters in rural areas; expanding educational, research, and career opportunities in rural areas; and developing long-term partnerships with organizations and colleges engaged with domestic rural issues in innovative ways.
Gift Opportunities for Cardinal Service

In addition to unrestricted support for Cardinal Service, donors can direct 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 50 more opportunities

Campus partners include: Bill Lane Center for the American West, Seed, SIEPR, Stanford Arts, Stanford Global Studies, Stanford in Government, and others.

- $1,000,000 endows a cohort of four CQ fellowships
- $250,000 endows one CQ fellowship annually

Cardinal Commitment, Cardinal Courses, and Cardinal Careers Opportunity Funds

Naming opportunities start at $1,000,000.

Gifts of any amount can be directed to existing funds at schools; centers and institutes; and the Haas Center for Public Service Annual, Directors’ Circle, and endowment funds.

Highest priorities:
- Local Education Partnerships
- Leadership development
- Graduate Public Service Fellowship
- Education, engineering, environment, and health course funds

For more information, please contact:

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