

Quotes from Student Reflection Papers

"I know I'm a long ways away from being a good and effective teacher, but it was really fun when I actually used some of the concepts that I've been taught in school. I especially noticed that math 50A and B really helped me when explaining multiplication and division to the kids." -Classroom Aide volunteer

"We can talk all we want about "how to teach" in the Liberal Studies program, but you never really learn until you are put in the role of an actual teacher with real students sitting in front of you. Thanks to my CAVE experience I feel much more comfortable about my decision to go into teaching, and I feel more confident that I will do a good job when I get my own classroom." - Classroom Aide volunteer

"Being in CAVE's Special Education program was the most educational class I took this year at Chico." - Special Pals volunteer

"I think CAVE programs are an asset to a college education. I wish more people had the inclination to volunteer. I know some majors require such participation, but as a business major, we have no incentive to participate. I think if everyone was required to volunteer for just one semester, they would gain knowledge that is not attainable from any classroom." - Adopted Grandparents volunteer

Quotes from CAVE Student Staff

"My experiences as a CAVE staff person gave me invaluable training in public speaking, organizational work, and relating to people of my own age in a leadership role."

"Now that I am out of school I understand what a valuable experience CAVE was. I truly appreciate the opportunities you gave me to explore and develop my skills and talents. You do so much good for so many people!"

Quotes from Faculty

CAVE provides a unique learning environment allowing students to develop skills in staff recruitment, training, and management. Students experience hands-on situations that require decision-making, problem solving, and conflict resolution. These skills are not easily obtained through a traditional classroom. CAVE extends the classroom learning experience and challenges students to apply skills and techniques to real life situations. Those students who have been involved with CAVE's programs possess the skills and knowledge that most students don't acquire until they have been out in the "working world" for at least 2-3 years. The training, support, and professionalism of CAVE is to be strongly commended. -Laura McLachlin, Professor, Recreation, Hospitality, and Parks Management Department, CSU, Chico

Quotes from Community Partners

The lessons offered by the college volunteers were innovative and creative. Also, the students were very excited about having college students in their classroom. The CSU, Chico, students were wonderful role models and benefited from having non-threatening exposure to a classroom teaching experience. -Grant Oliver 4th/5th grade teacher, Citrus Elementary School, Chico

The CAVE Classroom Aides have been able to connect with some of my students when I couldn't. They also bring to the classroom new ideas, concepts, and teaching techniques they are learning in their courses. So not only do my students benefit from sharing their knowledge, but I do as well. -Cris Goldmann 9th grade teacher, Chico Senior High School

Quotes from CAVE Alumni (Fall 2015 Survey)

How has CAVE helped you personally or professionally?

- CAVE was the greatest part of my college experience; cave gave me the best opportunities to get involved in the community, showed me the importance of service, and taught me outstanding leadership. Cave helped me choose a career in education. So much of who I am today and values that I live my life by were formed largely in part by my years on cave staff.
 - Fawn Ruby: Tutorial, Yountville, Kids & Service Learning Director
- CAVE has helped me grow immensely both personally and professionally. Professionally, CAVE helped me gain the office, organizational, and social skills necessary to enter into the workplace. Personally CAVE helped me gain confidence in myself in the workplace. I made a lot of life-long friends as well.
- It helped open my eyes and think about other people than myself, which at 20 is all I was doing.
 - Drew Murphy: Special Pals, Classroom Aide
- Career opportunity to be social worker for Napa/Solano Big Brothers/Sisters and as a placement coordinator.
- CAVE introduced me to a variety of institutions and sparked my interest in mental health. I eventually went on to work in the mental health setting.
- CAVE connected me to other human beings in a very humane way and gave me an ongoing experience of community while I got to develop organizational, communication, and leadership skills under the canopy of human service.
 - Carrie Meyer: Napa, Sonoma Development Center, Yountville
- CAVE helped me build my confidence and a variety of transferable skills. The experiential learning was key to that. I often say that I got my degree in CAVE. :)
 - Leanne Mixa Bettin: Classroom Aide, Napa, Sonoma Developmental Center, Whiskeytown Environmental School, California Youth Authority, Community Connections
- CAVE provided the foundation of my college experience. It defined what I majored in, my friendship base and taught me to look at every experience as a learning experience to grow as a person.

- Janet Richmond Summerville: CAVE Director, Adopted Grandparent, Friendship Circle, Napa, Sonoma Developmental Center, Yountville, Adult Literacy
- Working for CAVE was my first real volunteer job. It gave me confidence that, as a young student, I REALLY needed at the time. It was a great experience overall!
- I still remember the student I worked with. His name is Shane. Great experience. I am a school principal now.
- CAVE has helped me personally by exposing me to generous work. The kind of work that comes purely from the heart without the expectation of anything in return. Being around that as I worked alongside my fellow volunteers, really puts a smile on my face.
 - Anthony Buscalgia: Helping Hands, Sonoma Developmental Center, Yountville, Golden Gate
- I was a classroom volunteer, classroom placement coordinator, and a Sunny Acres volunteer from 1981-1983. After volunteering at Sunny Acres, I worked there for my final year at Chico State. Following that, I decided to pursue a degree in special education. I got my master's degree at University of the Pacific, and am currently in my 30th year of teaching. I made my career choice because of the experiences that I was able to have through CAVE. I love what I do, and have had teaching jobs, both special education and regular education, in California, Kansas, Nebraska, and currently in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Because I was the director of the Personal Growth Program I learned to network, take initiative, and work in a highly organized way. I also met many great people; both at CAVE, and in the community. I went on to work as a teacher, and also direct a volunteer program at the Marin County Volunteer Center.
- It was a great experience to prepare me for the professional world. I had more relevant experience right out of college, which enabled me to obtain management jobs immediately. I would highly recommend the CAVE experience to anyone.
- Developed strong leadership skills to create a solid foundation for my career. Positive sense of self for giving back to the community.
- It gave me skills that I used in graduate school and as a student affairs professional. Prepared me for professional experiences and helped me developed interpersonal communication skills.
- During my college career, CAVE was one of the few - if only - place I could utilize my desire to serve the community and grow as a volunteer. The opportunities to serve were valuable and memorable. My college career wouldn't have been the same without CAVE.
- CAVE gave me invaluable experience that helped launch my career right after college. I couldn't be more grateful.
- I learned SO much!! Really grew as a person with CAVE! I am a recreation professional and have used so many skills and life lessons I learned from my time with CAVE.

- CAVE provided me with great pre-teaching experience (I have had a 45 year career in education)
- At CAVE I learned the value of customer service, community service, treating "customers" and co-workers with dignity and respect. I learned skills such as communicating with other agencies, with staff and with the community. I learned that you can make a difference one interaction at a time. I learned that if you first hire good people the other resources can be found.
 - Bob Feaster: CAVE Director, Tutorial, Special Pals, Napa, Big Brothers Big Sisters (Project Pals). Retired Ass't. Superintendent, Chico Unified School District
- CAVE opened up many doors for me. The organization expanded my passion of giving back. CAVE gave me meaningful, real-life experiences that took me out of the classroom and into the world. Ultimately, my involvement in CAVE gave me an opportunity to express my love for service and my knowledge of being a leader to my current employer. Now I work on the financial side of non-profits, but I still see the good they do for our communities. CAVE, without a doubt, shaped me tremendously in college. It gave me purpose, it gave me a home, and it gave me a family.
 - Charlie Normandin: Excel, Golden Gate, Alternative Spring Break