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**International Center Records
UA0051**

Collection ID: UA0051

Title: International Center Records

Dates: 1975 – 2000 (Bulk 1988-1989)

Creator: Cal Poly International Center

Extent: 2 LF, 4 document boxes

Abstract: Records related to the development and administration of the International Center at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo including the records of inaugural director Jon M. Ericson, and the Peace Corps Program records containing the letters and reports of Robert E. McCorkle, retired professor and former Director of International Education and Programs, and program records of the International Cooperation Administration (ICA).

Language: English

Repository: California Polytechnic State University
Robert E. Kennedy Library
Special Collections and Archives
1 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
Phone: 805-756-2305
Email: archives@calpoly.edu
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Provenance: Transferred

Accessions: 1996.0018, 2015.0014

Processed by: Berlin Loa, 2016

Preferred Citation UA0051, International Center Records, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University



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Historical Note:

The International Center maintains administrative authority and university-wide oversight of international education at Cal Poly and functions as the clearinghouse for all international education initiatives, programs, and activities supported by the campus.

Cal Poly has participated in international education as a host campus since the 1950s. At that time Cal Poly conducted training activities for foreign students sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, by the Agency for International Development, and by developing countries. The campus sent its first faculty team overseas, to Zambia (Northern Rhodesia), in 1963 to assist with developing a college, partly based on Cal Poly's "learn by doing" philosophy.

In 1985 President Baker called for the internationalization of programs at Cal Poly. Following this prompting and due to increasing interest international studies, an International Relations minor was proposed by Jon Ericson, Dean of Communicative Arts and Humanities (later to become Liberal Arts), and approved for the Political Science department in 1986. The same year, Don Floyd of Social Science Department and William Little of the Foreign Languages wrote a proposal for a campus International Center, and submitted the proposal to Vice President for Academic Affairs, Malcom W. Wilson and the Academic Senate for review. Floyd and Little, along with Jon Ericson carried the proposals through the senate to establish a centralized international programs center on campus.

On 26 January 1988, the Academic Senate approved a resolution to fund and staff an International Center (AS-271-88). Goals included "centralizing dispersed aspects of Cal Poly international activities and functions". Dr. Jon Ericson stepped down from his role as Dean of Communicative Arts & Humanities to take the role of Director of International Program Planning. The department was designed to serve students, faculty, administrators, and the community with international affairs on campus as a center for activities including the already established office of International Education and Programs.

The International Center included oversight of the Peace Corps program which had been active on campus since 1961, soon after the Peace Corps was established by Executive Order 10924 under President Kennedy. By 1962 West Germany, Norway, and Belgium had sent diplomats to tour Cal Poly's Peace Corps Program as a model system to for Peace Corps programs. In 2015 Cal Poly was named one of the Peace Corps' top volunteer-producing universities.

Robert E. McCorkle, Cal Poly alum, studied Farm Management at Cal Poly. After completing his undergraduate in 1956, he undertook a Master's in Agricultural Economics at the University of California, Davis. Later, McCorkle returned to Cal Poly to join the Agricultural Business Management Department as professor of Agribusiness which he taught for over fifty years.

McCorkle became involved in domestic and overseas programs supporting agricultural development. He worked in Afghanistan with the Farmer-to-Farmer Training Program, and assisted the Zamibian Ministry of Agriculture in through the United States Agency of International Development. He became the Director of International Education and Programs in 1971 and managed the Peace Corps program.



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Scope and Content:

The International Center Records collection contains documents collected and prepared by Jon M. Ericson, Director of International Program Planning. Records include working notes and files related to the development of the center; brochures, pamphlets, and correspondence from international programs; interest assessment surveys; and correspondence between Jon M. Ericson and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Malcom Wilson. Records include profiles of international centers at UC and CSU campuses. Records also include the Peace Corps program annual reports from the desk of Robert McCorkle, Director of International Education and Programs, and program records of the International Cooperation Administration (ICA).

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in three series. Series I contains the International Center records of Jon M. Ericson. Series II contains the Peace Corps records of Robert McCorkle. Series III contains records of the International Cooperation Administration (ICA) at Cal Poly (1952-1961). Original organization of the records has been preserved where possible. Materials may have been reorganized or rehoused for preservation and access purposes.

Related Collections:

UA0019 College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

Sources:

"European countries are interested in starting a Peace Corps program." *El Mustang*. 26 October 1962: 1. Web. 27 June 2016. <<http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu>>

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International Development Activities, white paper and memorandum, Warren J. Baker to Academic Senate, 30 September 1986

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"Peace Corps unit being organized." *El Mustang*. 16 May 1961: 1. Web. 27 June 2016. <<http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu>>

Thompson, Jay. "Cal Poly named a Peace Corps' 2015 top volunteer-producing university." *Cal Poly News*, 10 March 2015. Web. <http://calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2015/March/peace-corp.html>

Access:

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