The CSU Todos Santos Center bridges cultures and inspires the cultivation of generations of global citizens and thriving communities through collaboration, experience, and exchange of knowledge. CSU answers the calling of the 21st century land-grant university by leveraging high impact practices in education and creating meaningful long-term opportunities and relationships across borders to address global challenges.

The three legal entities of Colorado State University (CSU), Colorado State University Research Foundation (CSURF), and Colorado State University Research Foundation Mexico Civil Association (CSURF Mexico AC) partner to operate and deliver programs at the CSU Todos Santos Center.

The CSURF Mexico AC is a Mexican nonprofit social assistance organization with an educational focus, which hosts programs and research from CSU and other universities, functions as a hub for community engagement in Todos Santos and Baja California Sur (BCS), and features various local workshops and events for BCS residents.

Thank you to our faculty partners and program leaders, whose programs you will read about in the upcoming pages, to all of the students from the United States and Mexico who participate in programs, and to our valued network of BCS community partners.

The CSURF Mexico AC is proud to be recognized by Mexico’s Secretary of Government as an exemplary employer.

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Each spring, undergraduate students in the Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology program live and learn at the CSU Todos Santos Center for an entire semester. Classroom-based lectures focus on the marine and desert ecosystems in and around Todos Santos, BCS, Mexico, as well as the methodology of studying fish and wildlife populations. Hands-on field learning, excursions, and student-led research projects provide high-impact learning opportunities to promote integration of principles in conservation biology and fish and wildlife ecology across the curriculum. Service learning activities focus on working with existing community non-profits to aid waste management efforts and reduce reliance on plastics.

Liberal Arts and Community Engagement in Mexico

In partnership with International Programs and the CSU Todos Santos Center, the College of Liberal Arts offers a semester-long CSU faculty-led program each fall. Designed to engage CSU students with the local community in and around Todos Santos, students take culture and language courses in advance of their trip, and then learn from local community members, faculty, and students upon arriving in Todos Santos.
The Veterinary Student Externship Program engages fourth-year CSU veterinary students in two-week educational and cultural exchange opportunities in BCS. Throughout the year, teams of CSU students (three students per trip) provide surgical and medical support to local shelters, participate in spay/neuter campaigns, and work with local ranchers to study their herds. The teams participate in more than 20 community spay/neuter clinics each year, providing more than 1,000 free surgeries to the public. CSU also supports and organizes a large, collaborative spay/neuter campaign biannually bringing together veterinarians and veterinary students from Todos Santos, La Paz, and the United States.

CVMBS Outreach Programs

The Veterinary Student Externship Program hosts workshops each year, focused on information exchange with local community professionals. Workshops have included a University of Alaska-Fairbanks instructor-led One Health Fish Pathology workshop, where attendees learned about ocean contaminants, fish anatomy, and the importance of ocean and fish health to society; as well as a workshop about external fixation, an approach to repairing broken bones. Workshops bring together veterinarians, students, fishermen, marine biologists, and professionals from across BCS – some traveling up to four hours to attend.

CVMBS Research Programs

CVMBS conducts various research projects, including a multi-year research study in collaboration with public health officials and veterinarians, to determine the prevalence of tick-borne disease among pets in the region.

One Year at the CSU Todos Santos Center:

1,600+

Animals Helped through Vaccinations and Spay/Neuter
FAMILY ADVENTURE WEEK

Family Adventure Week in Todos Santos is designed with the active, adventurous, culturally-curious family in mind. CSU staff and faculty families build new relationships with other CSU families, engage with the local community, and experience some of the best marine-based adventures the BCS region has to offer. Adventures include swimming with whale sharks and sea lions, sea kayaking, paddleboarding, snorkeling, fishing, surfing, and camping on a pristine island in the Sea of Cortez. Cultural and educational activities include a lesson on wildlife conservation issues in BCS and a service learning project.

FISH, WILDLIFE, AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY WINTER BREAK PROGRAM

The annual two-week Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology program includes excursions and experiential learning opportunities in Todos Santos, La Paz, and along the region’s beaches and deserts. Students and faculty visit the diverse ecosystems of the Pacific Ocean, Sea of Cortez, estuaries, deserts, and mountains to learn about the natural history of fish and wildlife species, understand wildlife management and conservation history, and identify common and contrasting wildlife management practices. These experiences, combined with conversations with local ecologists and natural resource managers, invite students to integrate wildlife ecology principles into management actions.

FIELD MARINE BIOLOGY

CSU students in Field Marine Biology have the opportunity to experience the diverse marine life of Todos Santos and the BCS Peninsula. Students spend 2.5 weeks exploring a range of organisms in the ocean, from plankton to sea lions, and bring their studies to life. Students also have the opportunity to learn from Todos Santos fishermen and interact with and host workshops for local students.
Students spend the first week of each Summer semester exploring two vastly different coastal environments: the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California. The students have an opportunity to compare geological, chemical, physical, biological, and environmental oceanography along the Pacific coast in Todos Santos with the oceanography along the Gulf of California coast on the island of Espiritu Santo, where students study coral reefs and mangroves and research sea lion and mobula environments.

SERVICE LEARNING COURSES
A variety of service learning experiences are available to students in Todos Santos. In one trip, students worked with local activist Alex Miro, founder of Punto Verde Recycling Center, co-designing educational displays to increase community awareness and motivate recycling habits.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
CSU students studying sustainable agriculture work with BCS farmers and students to incorporate technological advances and community knowledge into agriculture-related issues in the area. Students create opportunities for the exchange of information, learning techniques from local farmers that they can bring to the United States, and host community workshops related to their studies.

THE CSU GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Students cultivate global competencies while exploring leadership through a global lens, as part of the CSU Global Leadership Program. The student-led program seeks to build community among CSU and Mexican university students, faculty, and staff. Students plan and facilitate multinational panels and workshops on identity, leadership styles, trade policy, and environmental concerns in an effort to maintain strong global relationships with peers.
CSU-Pueblo Programs

CSU-PUEBLO ECOTOURISM

CSU-Pueblo students spend each Spring Break immersed in an ecotourism course, which explores the political, economic, and social impacts of ecotourism and sustainable development. Students participate in a cultural exchange in La Paz with Alternative Tourism students from the Autonomous University of BCS, and experience ecotourism in the form of a two-day camping trip to Espiritu Santo Island in the Sea of Cortez, service learning activities with Todos Santos middle school students, a cliff hike from Punta Lobos to San Pedro, and surfing at Los Cerritos Beach.

CSU-PUEBLO SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL & ALTERNATIVE TOURISM COURSE

Led by a CSU-Pueblo faculty member, CSU Fort Collins students spend a week each May immersed in a Sustainable Travel & Alternative Tourism course. The course examines the economic, sociocultural, and environmental impacts of alternative tourism and sustainable travel in BCS. Students host peers from the Autonomous University of BCS, and organize and lead the annual Ecotourism Symposium at the CSU Todos Santos Center to share findings and collaborate on solutions.

ECOTOURISM SYMPOSIUM & 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS GRANT

CSU-Pueblo, in collaboration with the Autonomous University of BCS, earned a grant from the Partners of the Americas Foundation, to implement a project titled “Establishing the Institute of Ecotourism Studies: Collaborative Workforce Development and Cultural Exchange Strategies in BCS.” A major piece of the initiative was hosting an inaugural Ecotourism Symposium at the CSU Todos Santos Center. The one-day symposium included workshops with topics ranging from sea turtle conservation, mangrove/reef protection, whale shark tourism, sustainable practices in ecotourism, conservation in the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve, green practices in the workplace, and an overview of the tourism economy and sustainability in BCS.
BCS Community Engagement

CLASSES

COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY AND GENOMICS
The CSU Department of Biology conducts annual workshops on computational biology and genomics. Participants from regional Mexican research institutions come to the CSU Todos Santos Center for the workshop, which focuses on training in the core computational tools necessary for analyzing genomic data in the modern biological sciences.

ENGLISH CLASSES
The donor-funded English program addresses one of the top community priorities – working with local citizens to improve their English, which often directly supports their livelihood. The CSU Todos Santos Center’s languages coordinator offers intensive semester-long classes to more than 100 local residents in five student cohorts. English students also engage in an Ambassador program which connects local residents with visiting CSU students to learn about each other, practice English, and engage in activities together.

KIDS DO IT ALL
Since 2014, CSU’s School of Music, Theatre, and Dance has hosted a donor-funded Kids Do It All music-theatre camp in Todos Santos for children from the United States and the local community. The annual student-led effort in Todos Santos is an adaptation of a long-standing and popular music-theatre program; the Todos Santos version of the program creates a bilingual and bicultural experience for more than 50 children aged 7-13. The students conclude the week by performing a community play.
WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

CSU is an active member of several regional committees focused on education, waste management, food security, and more. CSU co-created and hosted the first Educational Fair in Todos Santos, BCS, bringing together 10 public and private universities from La Paz and Los Cabos to share educational programs and opportunities with more than 500 local students and families from Todos Santos and El Pescadero.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

CSU groups regularly engage in environmental education and awareness activities related to waste management in Todos Santos, one of the top environmental-related priorities in the community. Such activities include beach and desert clean-ups, service-learning projects at the local recycling center, environmental education in the local schools, and contributing to an awareness campaign to reduce single-use plastics at a local and regional level.

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

The CSU Todos Santos Center provides a platform for nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, and faculty and students from nearby universities to share research, knowledge, and experiences with Todos Santos community members. The Center also offers local lectures and workshops, including a series on nutrition and health that addresses health-related priorities in BCS, such as diabetes and childhood obesity.

OUTREACH EVENTS

CSU students regularly prepare and offer educational activities to the students of Todos Santos and Pescadero, including hands-on learning programs such as Little Shop of Physics, Anatomy and Physiology, Bioblitz, science learning, and more.
One year at CSU Todos Santos Center:

700+ hours of English instruction to the community

160+ student visits

Thank you to our partners

The relationships and partnerships in BCS are integral to each person’s educational exchange and experience at the CSU Todos Santos Center. Thank you to our partners for the mutual learning and exploration!

For more information, visit:

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