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Engage, Encourage, & Empower: Shining Light on the Resources Available to Youth

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The Epicenter and Sam Gomez

Collaborative Health & Human Services

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May 8th, 2020

Author Note

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Abstract

Throughout the duration of this project, the internship was conducted at The Epicenter in Salinas, CA. They are a drop-in resource center for marginalized youth ages 16-24. The problem being addressed is youth having low community involvement. In broader terms, the issue at hand is youth not engaging in their community and gaining valuable mentorship/knowledge. The causes of having low community involvement for youth include poverty and not having the knowledge of the opportunities that exist in surrounding areas. The consequences that occur when youth do not get involved in their community, range from “brain drain,” which is where youth seek opportunities elsewhere, due to the lack of opportunities they believe are in their own city. Not being involved also has a consequence of leading to self-doubt and believing that they cannot make it elsewhere. To address this issue, a resource fair was planned to conduct a showcasing of possible opportunities that are available.

The resource fair was set to showcase possible art and education resources for youth. This way they could begin developing a connection face to face versus something that could be conducted online. The resource fair also allowed more incentives to be included, in order to reach more youth to participate the day of. Due to a worldwide pandemic, known as COVID-19, a shelter in place order was set in place. This made it where the original event was cancelled, however The Epicenter was left with a resource guide to eventually post on their website. It has been recommended to the center to eventually host their own resource fair while also including more partnerships with the building healthy communities’ campaign.

Keywords: youth, resources, mentorship

Agency & Communities Served

The Epicenter in Salinas, California is a non-profit organization that exists, “to empower at risk and system involved youth ages 16-24 to flourish by connecting them to community resources that provide opportunities for equity and hope in order to improve youth outcomes in Monterey County” (Epicenter, 2014). They were founded in September 2014 by the Monterey Child Welfare Services and VOICES (Voice Our Independent Choices for Emancipation Support). Their goal was to create a center where any youth could feel like they have a home. At the time, Salinas didn’t have resources/programs that were youth oriented and lacked in providing access to services. The Epicenter was created to fill that void. Although the mission statement mentions they provide services for ages 16-24, they support far beyond that range.

The Epicenter is more than just a center to most of the youth that attend for their services. They have open doors for everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexuality, and income. No one will be turned away and that’s the wonderful thing because they are there to help. As seen on the

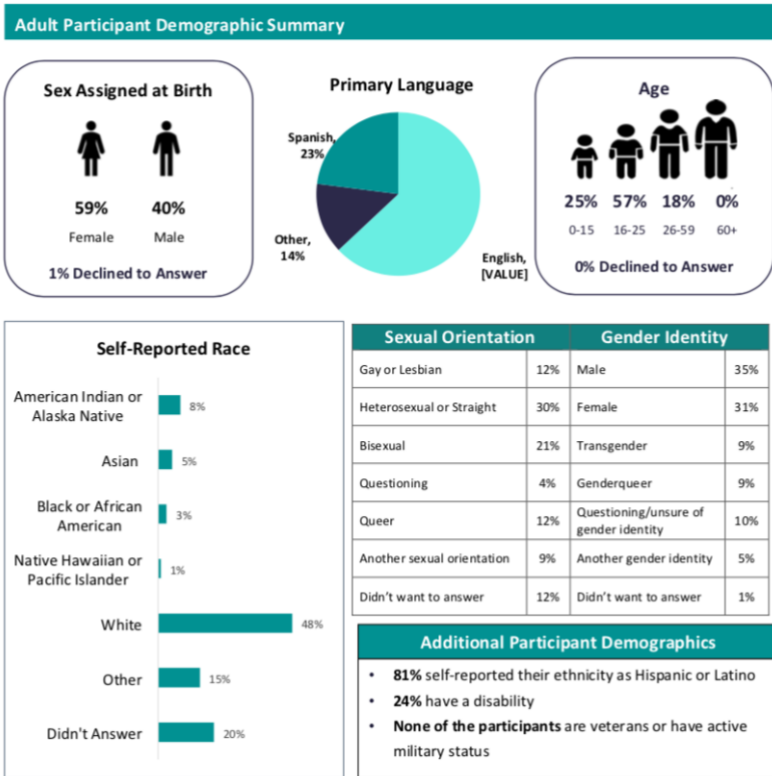


chart to the left the age of population served varies past what is included in the mission statement (PEI, 2018-2019). They are a small center, meaning they don’t have access to all the resources a youth may possibly need. To address this gap, the center is also a drop-in resource spot that redirects people to other agencies that may provide resources that the center doesn’t provide. Some of the most used

resources for the youth is having a snack provided for them each day they attend and having access to a teen closet where they can take any of the clothes available.

Programs

CYC/Youth Council/Our Gente

The California Youth Connection (CYC) is a non-profit organization that is run and led by youth. The organization started off as just an all-volunteer group formed from current or former foster youth ranging from the ages of 14-24 years old. They eventually transformed into an independent nonprofit with many chapters in surrounding areas. Their main goal is to develop leaders who empower each other and their communities to transform the foster care system through legislative, policy, and practice change. “Their vision is that all foster youth will be equal partners in contributing to all policies and decisions made in their lives. All youth in foster care will have their needs met and the support to grow into healthy and vibrant adults” (Our history, 2018). Each year they pick new issues that are occurring in the foster care system that have or are affecting them currently. They take these problems that keep happening and come together to work on policies that should be implemented in order to help improve what is going on, for their whole population. After they work on said policy, they take it all the way to the California State Capitol in Sacramento and speak with Representatives to keep reiterating the bill in order to move it up to get implemented (Our History, 2018).

The California Youth Connection has been doing this for several decades now and they have a chapter at The Epicenter. Youth from Monterey County are able to join the program and contribute to the policy changes. They have a big focus on the foster youth population, especially with having this chapter be a representation. In connection with foster youth The Epicenter also has a program called Youth Council, where former or current foster youth can apply and work

for the center. The program shoots for having individuals who have no prior experience working. This allows the center to help the individual grow in skills that will be beneficial in later years.

Lastly, the Our Gente program;

is a multi-faceted project that includes community and agency trainings, monthly support groups for youth ages 16-24, and community events all steered by the Queer & Trans Youth Collective. Our Gente offers a safer space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer & questioning, intersex and asexual youth living in Monterey County. (Our Gente, n.d)

They provide bi-weekly support groups for anyone to attend. They teach the individuals valuable self-care activities. The major project of the Our Gente program is the annual Latinx LGBTQ+ Film festival. The festival is meant to bring awareness to the Latinx actors and filmmakers.

Problem Description

Due to various circumstances, youth in rural communities are more likely to be unaware of opportunities that exist. This is an important issue in our society today because youth are the future of our precious world. When youth have nowhere to go, they are more prone to get involved in the negative areas in Salinas, for example:

22 youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 were murdered in Monterey County in 2013.

The homicide rate among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in Monterey County was 23.48 per 100,000 in 2013. (Langley, M., & Sugarmann, J., 2015, pg. 23).

Although, these rates attest to the tragic deaths of individuals, there's more to the story than just numbers. Without guidance through mentorship, youth won't have the resources needed to be their best possible selves.

Many youths in rural communities come from households in poverty. Majority of the work in the surrounding area includes agriculture, meaning these guardians are working long,

hard, manual labor jobs. Many of these adolescents are left to care for their younger siblings or may even have to get their own part time job to help the family stay afloat. This is a lot of emotional responsibility to put on a minor, but they take the challenge on anyways. Having these responsibilities, takes away from being able to get involved or talk to mentors that help guide them through this journey of life. Although many organizations can't take away the pressure financially, they can provide a space where adolescents can grow with the support they need.

Contributing Factors

Mentorship

Schools provide a strong foundation for education in the classroom, however that's where it stops. Monterey County as a whole is lacking the resources to provide guidance to the youth who live in their community. Schools like Seaside High School have a program called GEAR UP. Gaining Early Awareness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federal college readiness program funded by the Department of Education that aims to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education (GEAR UP, 2019). Only a few schools in the surrounding areas include a program like this. The issue begins with having a lack of mentorship for students in and out of high schools in the city of Salinas. 30.8% of the population in Salinas are youth who are under the age of 18 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017).

Youth have no guidance or direction; this leaves them to figure it out on their own. In order to thrive, youth need a safe space where an open dialogue can be given. Many adolescents don't receive mentorship at home because of being in high poverty neighborhoods. Salinas is dominantly run by agriculture and many guardians are out there working long hours in the fields. For many, that is not enough to maintain families, and they seek out other jobs. Most of the time

for these types of households, the eldest child is left with the responsibility of taking care of the younger siblings. From a young age they begin to get thrown various things their way and only handle them the best way they know how. This causes limitations in what they can do and learn from outside of that environment. By experience, youth thrive when having support from other mentors who may have had similar upbringings as them. Lack of diversity is also what draws back students to reach out to members of their community and school. By this, it means lack of representation of people of color in professional settings, such as teachers, principals, staff etc. A mentor can truly be an important aspect of one's life, "Studies have shown a mentor can make a significant impact on a person's career" (Bowman, 2015, par. 4). Without the proper support it leads to many youths developing self-doubt and lower levels of motivation.

Poverty

Salinas has a dense population where poverty is high, there are some Salinas neighborhoods that have an annual per capita income of \$7,349. That is drastically low compared to the federal poverty line that is at \$17,029 for a household of four (Elizondo & etc.,2003). This brings increased stress levels to guardians who are trying to work multiple jobs in order to make ends meet. Those stressors, although not always on purpose, are being carried by an adolescent who may need help in some form but are scared to ask.

In 2001, 3,422 families were referred to Monterey County's Division of Social Services for reasons having to do with child abuse or neglect, of those, 1,236 members suffered physical abuse, 1,959 were victims of general neglect, 689 were sexually abused, and 307 involved in cases of parental absence or incapacity. (Elizondo, Fernando, Ken Feske, Dana Edgull, & Kelle Walsh, 2003, par. 9)

Many are faced with far worse life circumstances but are left helpless due to overflow and limitations for services. This contributes to them not wanting to be able to commit to the community because they are dealing with various other factors that are entirely out of their control. According to Elizondo, et. al. (2003) over 1,000 of the adolescents who needed mental health services did not receive the care they needed. The youth never get the ability to develop a secure method or relationship in order to receive the proper care to maintain any mental health disorders they could be experiencing. These experiences lead to far worse outcomes in the future development of a child.

Consequences

Due to the limited job opportunities and resources in Salinas, many youth/young adults choose to find those opportunities elsewhere. This concept is actually not relatively new to rural areas like Salinas, it is often referred to as “brain drain;”

Because of the actual and perceived lack of opportunities in rural communities, youth and young adults leave for education, jobs, and other reasons, sometimes urged to do so by their own communities. However, the lack of the younger generation hampers a rural community’s ability to survive and recover from economic downturns, engage in community and economic development, and remain competitive in an ever-changing global environment. (Stifler, L. 2010, par. 1)

Like Stifler mentions the consequence doesn’t end with that population leaving the community it continues to be detrimental to the community as time goes on. Youth see no positive outcome with them staying in the city they grew up in. Since they didn’t receive the support when younger, adolescents tend to see the bigger and better picture of somewhere outside of their area. It’s one thing to leave for post- secondary education and come back but that’s usually not the

case. Most youth leave for better opportunities and don't look back. This leads to the lack of development and growing from the communities they grew up in. Meaning with no educated individuals coming back to help, the community is stuck with higher professionals who do not know their needs.

Studies show that many adolescents that lack concrete support systems and things to do away from school tend to seek out other forms of reassurance. For some youth, they seek that through drugs and gang violence. Within a gang they know that their partners will always have their back and that's what draws them in. In a sense, it brings them a sense of hope that they will have someone to guide them. Through these negative experiences, it leads youth to eventually end up in a system that will never be in their favor. From personal experiences, many young adults have stated that they feel like they lacked the confidence to be successful. This tends to be higher for individuals in marginalized populations.

Problem Model

Contributing Factors	Problem	Consequences
Poverty in rural communities	Low community involvement for youth	Brain Drain - Youth leave their city in order to find opportunities elsewhere
Youth are unable to engage in opportunities to be mentored		Self-doubt/motivation due to lack of concrete support
Youth have responsibilities at home		

Capstone Project Description and Justification

Capstone Project and Purpose

This capstone project included a lot of collaboration within the community members and other non-profit organizations. It was geared towards youth 21 years old and younger. However, any members of the community were more than welcomed to join the resource fair. The goal was to provide a showcase of resources that exist in Salinas for youth to get involved. It was designed for youth to gain knowledge of ways that would let their voices be heard. The non-profits scheduled to attend mainly focused on the art aspect of creativity, whether that be dancing, painting, singing, etc. The goal was to also have organizations that focus on education and helping students reach their goals towards higher education. This way the showcase would be a holistic development approach. Youth who attended the showcase would have had the opportunity to create connections with organizations that provide mentorship opportunities through art, learning, or volunteer services. This would mend the gap for youth to gain opportunities to have mentors in their life. By this, the project is justified that with growing knowledge of resources, youth would be able to attain more opportunities to be involved.

Project Justification

Majority of the research found is focused on youth violence prevention and for this project some strategies will be used to develop a successful capstone project. Strategies used through service learning allowed “students to be empowered through collaborative and cooperative faculty-facilitated learning communities” (Flinders, 2013, par. 3). This translates to students having hands-on experiences that allow them to develop relationships in communities they are living in. This capstone project would allow many of those adolescents to find the connections in order to have their own service-learning experience with their community. This

type of strategy keeps individuals engaged with hands-on learning. Everyone has different learning styles and this specific approach helps those who need extra support.

Through community engagement adolescents are more prone to give back to the city they live in. They are able to build a caseload of knowledge in different areas that they didn't know of before. This project used the power that technology has in order to provide this style of learning. For example, this capstone project focused a lot on art aspects in Salinas. Many youths have not been able to experience knowledge in art because that is one of the first things to go in funding in the education system. Youth have not had the ability to explore their creative side. Many of the youth who have participated in nonprofit organizations like The Youth Art Collective or Hijos Del Sol may not even have known that they had that hidden talent within them. By seeing people who are similar to various ways to them, will hopefully increase their confidence in order to reach out.

Project Implementation

In order for this project to be successful, the community's voices were involved. The voices of youth who live in the community were also considered. Organizations from various sides of Salinas were recruited to participate in the showcase. This was in order to have representation from all areas, specifically for the older youth who may have vehicles to get to the other sides of Salinas. During the months of December through February organizations were contacted about the opportunity to be involved. A save the date flyer was created in order to welcome and inform the possible organizations who wanted to be involved. Following that meetings were set to discuss the purpose of the showcase and their involvement. A meeting was only held with Hijos del Sol and YAC. The rest of the correspondences were conducted via email, due to lack of availability. A flyer for the day of the event was created and personalized

with a picture highlighting The Epicenter (see Appendix D). The flyer promoted the raffle that was to be held, prizes, resources, and the free food that was available the day of. The following steps were part of the process of getting supplies and outlines for the day of.

The center had a meeting with the Senior Director for the Monterey County Department of Education Alternative programs, who was going to be a big support system during the project. They were supposed to be tabling, printing, and also helping with distributing flyers to schools. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, communication was oddly difficult, and their support was lost for these essential parts. Printing was a vital piece for this project, and losing that source created a challenge. The Epicenter was able to do the printing for just the flyers and only a handful were printed. Marketing was done more by a digital format versus an in person. Social media platforms were used in order to promote the event throughout February. Facebook, Instagram, and twitter were the main platforms that were used to promote the flyer and a welcoming message hoping to push people to attend.

Unfortunately, the item that needed the most printing was miniature passports. They were an item that was created as an incentive for youth and it will be explained further down. The center did not have the capability to provide all the printing, and a new method was created. With the help of the youth who attend the center daily, 40 miniature passports were handmade, drawn, colored, and stapled together. In order to find more organizations to participate, more emails were sent, messages on social media were also sent. However, during this process there were multiple organizations that never responded. Through outreach and connections, the center already had, more organizations were brought onto the project. In total, 9 organizations were set to table for the day of. For outreach an event page was created on google calendar that was linked to The Epicenters home website. A google form was created in order to have all

organizations contact information in one place before transferring it over to a table (see Appendix C).

The showcase was to be held in The Epicenter parking lot, where all the tables were set to be in a horseshoe style. The purpose of this was to have participants circulate down the curve and get a whole view of all the sources that were available to them. In order to attract more individuals to attend, a potluck style of an event was set to happen. The staff from The Epicenter signed up to bring a dish, desert, or drink. At check-in, participants received the passports that were made by the youth and intern. The purpose of the passport was so individuals could receive stamps for visiting a table and talking to them about the resource they provide. Once completed, they would bring it back to the check-in table to be entered in a drawing. The prize was going to be CSUMB Swag and a 25-dollar grocery outlet gift card. A donation letter was created and delivered to local grocery markets and stores. Grocery outlet was the only one to donate an actual gift card. The contact information for the organizations that were set to participate are in Table 1a located in Appendix B.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances the showcase had to be cancelled four days prior to its being held. The world was experiencing a worldwide pandemic known as COVID-19. For safety precautions, no large gatherings were going to be able to be held until further notice. Unfortunately, the resource showcase fell under these guideless and the event could not be postponed until a later time. Thankfully, all organizations were very understanding and supportive during this time. After being made aware of the need to cancel, social media platforms were used to make the announcement that the event would no longer occur. However, in order to still provide the population with these resources, it was time to decide something new.

With the support from professors, mentors, and friends the decision was made to move into an online format. By this, it means moving into developing a website where all the information that was set to be provided would now be collected into one place. The platform wix was going to be used in order to create a website for the information to be displayed on. All the organizations have been re-contacted in order to have student quotes, pictures, and organization information be provided. The front page included the title “Engage, Empower, Encourage.” It had a brief introduction of the creator and the purpose behind the website. There was a section where a slideshow was playing with some photographs of the organizations and brief descriptions. Once a section was selected the individual would then be redirected to a page that will have more information and a link to the organization’s homepage. A detailed implementation plan and timeline can be seen in the Scope of Work in Appendix A. Time was not in the best interest, and all the pieces were not able to be executed on a website. In order to still provide the information to the youth, a google doc was created with every single thing that was supposed to be on the website and the moving pieces in order to one day conduct an actual resource fair. Along with this information The Epicenter was also provided with a 9-page resource guide, highlighting the resources that would have been in attendance. The resource guide includes, agency mission, programs, testimonials, and pictures.

Assessment Plan and Expected Outcomes

A needs assessment was conducted around November, with around 8 participants. Based on the information gathered, youth wanted to learn more about places that they could be themselves and professional development. By this it was inferred that the youth wanted a place similar to the center that creates a welcoming environment for all who attend. This information was used in order to pinpoint organizations that were going to be asked to participate.

The Epicenter expected to have around 25 individuals in attendance at the showcase from various age ranges. In order to measure the effectiveness of the showcase, every individual in attendance was set to receive a post evaluation. The post evaluation would be conducted through paper and pen, due to the majority of participants being expected to be young adolescents who may not have access to electronics. The evaluation included three questions that analyzed the effectiveness of the organizations that were present the day of. To create an incentive for youth to complete the evaluation, they were all given a passport booklet during check-in. This booklet contained areas where they would need to receive stamps from specific tables at the showcase. Once the booklet was completed, they could return it to the check-in table and receive a ticket to enter into the raffle. After completing the evaluation, they would also receive another ticket to raise their chances of winning.

After the event, all paper forms would be transferred over to an electronic format such as a Google Form. After everything was inputted, as a team, the group analyzed the information received to view impact. The main takeaway youth would be leaving the showcase with, is having the knowledge of resources they could get involved in with their community. This brings hopes that youth will get involved and let their voices be heard in the organizations that exist in Salinas as a whole. They would feel empowered by their City, and hopefully want to give back to their community in the future.

As explained prior, due to unforeseen circumstances this could no longer take place. The new assessment plan focused on assessing the resources that were gathered to attend the event. This assessment was conducted by the staff as the center in order to receive more input from individuals. This would allow for future planning to see what extra needs to be added to the

agenda to make sure the holistic development is all there. The expected outcome would include having a solid plan in order to be used in the future.

Project Results

The original outcomes were not able to be achieved due to COVID-19, however a discussion was conducted between some staff members in order to assess what could have been. A major theme discussed, included how beneficial it would have been for youth who would have attended the resource fair. The staff pointed out that the youth who attend the center on a daily basis would have been one of the crowds that would've benefited the most. These youth don't typically get to see what is outside of that specific area of Salinas, so having an opportunity to see what else is available would be a big impact. This is especially because all the daily youth enjoy art, whether that be painting, dancing, theater or signing. The resource fair would have given them an opportunity to see where they could go in order to build on their already exceptional skills or even learn something new. Lastly, hosting an in-person event would have allowed for a connection to be created more versus doing something that is purely online. An example of this is the organization Hijos Del Sol, would have been conducting a hands-on project in order to engage the youth who visited their table.

With COVID-19 the overall end result changed. In order to give something back to the agency, all the information was gathered together that would have been presented and a resource guide was created. The resource guide resulted in nine pages of information that included: mission statements, programs at each agency, testimonials, contact information, and pictures. This resource guide was shared with The Epicenter staff and will eventually result in being put on their website. This will hopefully get the attention from clients who visit The Epicenter website.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Based on the possible scenarios that were discussed, it is recommended that the agency takes the information and shares it with youth who attend the center on a daily basis and if possible be posted to the website online. Another alternative in order to get more participants is to partner up with the local high schools like Salinas High and present to the students the information that is provided at the resource fair. It would also be a good idea to see if the resource fair could be hosted during the high school lunch time in order to reach a larger crowd. Partnering up with a high school will ensure that more than 25 participants would have access to the information. Lastly, a major recommendation is to develop a better way to maintain communication with organizations versus having to wait to see if one could still participate. This was a major issue during this capstone project because it was a lot like a waiting game to see who was confirmed to participate.

Personal Reflection

One of my major takeaways from the time at my internship is the importance of being able to be flexible no matter how thought out of a plan you may have. This was seen not only with my own project but within my agency as well. I witnessed other projects go unplanned due to unforeseen circumstances and it gave me some insight when that situation happened to me. This also ties into one of the biggest challenges, COVID-19 took a major toll on my capstone project. It not only had me cancel the event four days before it was supposed to occur, but it also dimmed my light internally. I struggled to get back on track and resettled into creating something for my project, I learned that it's truly okay to step away for a bit and regather oneself. This is not only beneficial in a health and human services career, but it is also important in overall life. I was able to talk to my mentor and let them know how I was feeling overall, it helped

tremendously. Another challenge overall was communicating with other agencies, many of which were small non-profits like The Epicenter. This made it significantly difficult to get in contact with someone that was able to assist me during my project. However, after many attempts in reaching out via email or social media the connections were made.

The biggest quality I was able to further develop during this experience was my ability to collaborate with strangers. I say strangers because that's how it was at first, however, after the conversation started, it never felt like strangers again. I knew my project was going to be more than a one-person job, and I was able to conduct the outreach that ensured me to get other people into the conversation. One of my successes has been my ability to describe my passion and vision as I speak. Every time I met with someone, they noted how passionate I was. Although some organizations lost contact with me during the process, I know the outcome will still benefit future populations in one way, shape, or form.

The advice I have for future interns is go in with an open mind full of ideas. The Epicenter is an agency where ideas are developed, and support will always be given. Interns shouldn't be afraid to ask for help because all staff members will have open arms as if they've known you for a while. My favorite part of this internship experience has definitely been each week that I attended being welcomed with a hello and a check-in to see how I was doing.

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Appendix A

Scope of Work - All activities were accomplished within the time frame

Activities	Timeline/Deadlines	Supporting Staff
Brainstorm list of nonprofits and organizations that could be tabling at the resource fair	November 5th, 2019	
Reach out to potential collaborators from the fundraising event for The Epicenter	November 13th, 2019	Sam
Needs Assessment	November 20th, December 4th 2019	Sam & Staff
Create flyer for the save the date	December 7th, 2019	
Meeting with Chris Devers (MCOE)	December 11th, 2019	
Develop list of organizations to reach out to	Ongoing	Sam
Send email to organizations so they can save the date/set up meetings	January 12th, 2019	
Share out save the date on social media platforms	Ongoing	Epicenter Staff
Confirm meetings with organizations to discuss proposed outcomes/purpose of the event	January 15th, 2020	
Create template of the set up for the day of resource fair	February 15th, 2020	
Create passport booklet draft	February 15th, 2020	
Develop Google Form for contact information for groups	February 26th, 2020	
Develop a google calendar invite to post to The Epicenter website	February 26th, 2020	
Finalize list of organizations that have confirmed to table at the event	March 5th, 2020	
Put together passport booklets	February 25th-March 5th	Youth
Outreach for donations/food	March 1st- March 12th	
Send out reminder email to organizations about cancelling event	March 13th, 2020	
Day of original Showcase	March 18th, 2020	
Meet with mentor to discuss revision of project	March 25th, 2020	Sam
Reach out to organizations in order for them to provide content for the website	March 27th, 2020	
Begin developing website through wix platform	April 12th, 2020	
Develop 9 page resource guide	April 26-27th	Sam
Further Recommendations	April 27th	Sam, Jacob

Appendix B

Table 1A- Contact Information

Organization	Point of Contact	Email	Phone Number	Interested?
Hartnell Career Services	Jessie Betancourt	jbetancourt@hartnell.edu	831.759.6007	Confirmed
City of Salinas-Recreation and Community Services	Ana Ambriz	anaa@ci.salinas.ca.us	(831)758-7381	Confirmed
Youth Arts Collective (YAC)	Susan Mckendry (Board member)	mckendry.s.m@gmail.com	831-366-0852	Confirmed
Hijos del Sol		hijosdelsolarts@gmail.com		Confirmed
Artist Ink.		emilym@artistink.org		Confirmed
Friday Night Life (FNL)	Richelle, Lesa, Paulina	richelle@epicneterminerrey.org		Confirmed
California Conservation Corps	Ricardo Gomez (Recruitment)	Ricardo.Gomez@ccc.ca.gov		Confirmed
Alisal Center for the Fine Arts (ACFA)	Javier Tamayo	tamayojavier1@gmail.com alisalarts@gmail.com	831.758.5715	Confirmed

Appendix C

Outreach & Contact Information



Community Involvement Showcase: Encourage, Engage, Empower

Hello Everyone!

Just to reiterate my name is Lissa Alaniz, I'm currently in my third and final year at California State University of Monterey Bay. I am a Collaborative Health and Human Services major with a concentration in social work. I am interning at The Epicenter and preparing for a capstone project this semester.

The purpose of my event is to increase the likelihood of youth developing strong connections with mentors. The Resource Fair will be on Wednesday, March 18th from 4-7pm at The Epicenter.

Set up will be begin at 3:30pm at 20 Maple Street Salinas CA, 93901. Parking will have to be on the street, due to us using the parking lot for the event. Please makes sure to bring paperweights or anything to hold your materials down just in case there is wind. We will be providing tables and chairs.

We will begin taking things down around 6:30pm.

I will send a google invite once you fill out the form! Feel free to add additional staff to the invite once I send it out.

This event will have food that will be provided by The Epicenter staff (potluck style). At the end of this form you will have the option of singing up to bring a dish as well. It is completely optional, so don't feel obligated.

Organization Name/Department *

Your answer

Point of Contact Name/Title *

Your answer

Best form of communication (email, phone, in person etc.) *

Your answer

Would you like to sign up to bring a dish to the event? *

Yes

No

If the answer to the above question was yes, what dish would you like to bring?

Your answer

Appendix D

Capstone Project Flyer



The flyer features a yellow background with a pattern of white circles. At the top, the title "Community Involvement Showcase" is written in a black cursive font, flanked by two blue fist icons. Below the title, the words "ENCOURAGE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER" are written in a bold, black, outlined font. The central image shows a blue house with a porch, with a sign in the foreground that reads "THE EPICENTER" and "TEL. 831-998-7291". A white text box overlaid on the image contains the event details: "JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH FROM 4:00-7:00PM" and "20 Maple St, Salinas, CA 93901". At the bottom left, a white circle contains the text "Learn about the wonderful opportunities that exist in the beautiful County of Monterey!". At the bottom center, another white circle contains a bulleted list of activities: "FREE FOOD", "Raffle & Prizes", "Volunteer Opportunities", "Resource Fair", and "Resume Help". To the right of this list are icons for a pizza slice and a raffle ticket. At the bottom right, the logo for "THE EPICENTER" is displayed, featuring a stylized grey figure and the tagline "FIND YOUR UNDERLYING POTENTIAL".

Community Involvement Showcase

ENCOURAGE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER

**JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 18TH FROM
4:00-7:00PM**

20 Maple St, Salinas, CA 93901

Learn about the wonderful opportunities that exist in the beautiful County of Monterey!

- FREE FOOD
- Raffle & Prizes
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Resource Fair
- Resume Help

THE EPICENTER
FIND YOUR UNDERLYING POTENTIAL

FOR ANY QUESTIONS EMAIL LALANIZ@CSUMB.EDU