

Chilean Universities Finish Community Projects Supported by Talloires Network and the Walmart Foundation

Four Chilean universities have completed two rounds of community service projects supported by the TN with a grant from the Walmart Foundation – 3 in 2011-12 and 3 in 2012-13. The university projects achieved significant impacts on both community needs and students' development.

We would like to salute the professors, students and community partners who led these impressive initiatives. This initial article summarizes the projects. In a future newsletter, we will highlight selected strategies and impacts that may be of interest to other TN members.

The Cuidanía Activa (Active Citizenship) program was coordinated by José Manuel de Ferrari at Participa, a Chilean NGO that specializes in democratic participation and NGO leadership. Participa managed the selection process, provided assistance and documented the work of the university projects. Many thanks to former TN Steering Committee member Mónica Jimenez de la Jara who advised on development of this project and who linked the Network to our in-country partner Participa.

The Cuidanía Activa program was open to Chilean TN members and also to members of Construye País (To Build the Country), a network of Chilean universities committed to advancing the social responsibility of higher education. Chilean universities have a strong foundation of social responsibility. This initiative sought to build upon that foundation and to reinforce it. Universities competed to for grants of \$10,000 each to support community service projects. The projects addressed priority goals of the Walmart Foundation, with an emphasis on serving women and girls.

Sponsored projects were:

Universidad Alberto Hurtado. Directed by Juan Ignacio Latorre Riveros, Director of Social Action and Reflection. 50 students in economics and business worked to strengthen the business plans of 16 entrepreneurs in the Santiago area.

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Directed by Bernardita Ramírez Navarro. Students partnered with residents of a low-income housing development in Santiago to design a children's garden that advances environmental education and at the same time builds community.

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Directed by Prof. Rayén Condeza Dall'Orso, School of Communications. 50 undergraduate and graduate students worked with 5 professors to run workshops on photography, radio, for groups of teenagers in the La Platina area. The workshops trained teenagers to document community needs and assets.

Universidad de Santiago de Chile. Directed by Máximo González Sasso, Director of Teaching. This project aimed to improve the inclusion and retention at the university of secondary school students from 10 Santiago area schools who are academically talented and socially disadvantaged. University students taught remedial courses in mathematics, language and personal management, and the university provided an array of academic support activities.

Universidad Austral de Chile. Directed by Elisa Cordero Jahr, School of Architecture. Students in courses in architecture, anthropology and natural resources worked with residences of a new low-income housing development in Valdivia to design and implement a color scheme for the housing, and design green areas of the development.

Universidad Austral de Chile. Directed by Claudia Monsalves Toro. Entitled Valdivia Art Network, this is a collaboration between an interdisciplinary group of university students and professors (visual arts, marine biology and education) and local artists that planned and implemented arts and cultural activities to elevate appreciation of biodiversity heritage.



Residents of a local housing development implement landscape designed by Universidad Austral de Chile students