

Date: December 8, 2021

To: Peake, Barnaby, Director, Associated Students, Inc.

CC: Dena Florez, Office Manager of Administration and Services

From: James Goodrich, Assistant Director
Children's Center

Report on the Anna Bing Arnold Children's Center – Fall Semester 2021

The Associated Students, Inc. funding year to date has been used to support the re-opening and ongoing operation of the Center with an emphasis on the areas of program availability, program quality and program support for low-income student families. The target population for this project is Cal State L.A. student parents. The Center re-opened August 23, 2021 after being closed due to COVID-19.

A. Use of Funding

Funding Sources: ASI, Inc., funding constitutes about 7% of the Children's Center Operational Budget. Grants for low-income students make-up 65% of funding, parent fees 23% and the General Fund and IRA constitute the remaining 5%

Fall ASI Allocation: The \$70,389.50 allocated for fall semester was used throughout the program to support the general operation of the Children's Center. Associated Student financial support allowed the Center to provide an affordable, high quality child care program for student parents. ASI funding provided for tuition reduction for student parents, excellent teacher/child ratios, needed equipment, supplies and hot meals for children. 100% of ASI funding will be used by year-end.

B. Program Availability

The primary benefit Cal State L.A. students receive from our program is child care while they attend classes. Secondary benefits are an exemplary early care and education program for the children who attend and for CSLA students to use for observation, child study and research assignments. Student employment that advances student career goals is an additional benefit.

Student Enrollment: CSLA students are always given first priority for enrollment at the Children's Center. This Center has enrolled 65 families during the fall semester. Of these 55% were student families. As a precaution, the Center opened five of the six classrooms at lower capacity due to COVID-19. We intend to have maximum capacity early 2022.

Observation and Training: This fall semester 28 students have used the center for a total of

1,282 hours of observation and training. Additionally the Center employed 27 CSULA students to work as student assistants.

C. Support for low-income student parents

Child Care Tuition Assistance: Of particular concern to the Center is making sure that child care services are available for low-income student parents. Associated Student funding is used to support our general operation in order to offer reduced rates to all CSLA student families. In addition, the Center has been awarded several grants to serve low-income children in our program. This fall 93% of student parents received a subsidy for up to 100% of their preschool costs through these grants.

Child Care Food Program: The Center provides hot meals for all children at the Center, free of charge. This program is made possible with a continuing grant from the California Department of Education Child Care Food Program (CCFP), and the support of the ASI. This year we will receive about \$65,000 for the CCFP grant, which will provide for 60% of the cost of the food program. ASI funding is used for 2.5% of the remaining cost. These combined sources make it possible to provide hot meals without an increase in child tuition. The benefit of this program component is overwhelmingly positive. The meals we provide are exceptionally nutritious and, for some families, represent the only balanced meals their children may receive.

D. Program Quality:

Associated Student funding makes it possible for us to offer a program that meets the needs of student parents. Providing for low teacher/child ratios, flexible schedules, enrollment each semester, student priority and reduced fees for students all add considerably to program costs. ASI funding is used throughout the budget in order to support the Center in maintaining a child care program that is designed for students and offers the quality of services that CSLA students deserve and can be proud of. Funding is used to support the following quality areas:

- Classroom supplies and equipment so that children are given the materials they need to learn.
- Staffing. The Center maintains a 1:7 adult/child ratio for preschool and a 1:3 ratio for infants.
- Flexible scheduling. Student parents enroll for part or full days in any combination needed in order to meet their class, study and work schedules.