

THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES

News Release

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Project Sister Family Services Named Community Partner of the Year

Project Sister Family Services, an organization that provides crisis intervention and education services to survivors of sexual assault, has received The Claremont Colleges' 2015 Community Partner of the Year Award.

The award recognizes the contributions of a community person, agency, organization, or business that has, during the past academic year, significantly enhanced town and gown relationships with an emphasis on serving students.

In presenting the honor, Sheldon Schuster, chair of the Council of The Claremont Colleges and president of Keck Graduate Institute, noted that the services and contributions of Project Sister exemplified the purpose and mission of the award.

Founded in 1972, Project Sister serves eastern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County. It also works with local law enforcement, district attorneys, courts, hospital and health care providers, schools, churches, and other community organizations.

Since fall 2014, Project Sister has partnered with The Claremont Colleges by making a sexual assault counselor available to all Claremont Colleges students one day a week. It also provides specialized follow-up care as needed. Beginning this fall, the service will be housed in the new EmPOWER Center for Sexual Violence Prevention and Support, which is located on the Scripps College campus.

In a letter of nomination, The Claremont College Student Deans Committee commended Project Sister for its outreach efforts.

"Even prior to our formal partnership, Project Sister has consistently worked with students from The Claremont Colleges and has been an important community resource for survivors of sexual assault and sexual violence for many years. Further, Julie [Boynton] and her staff at Project Sister have provided training for our staff and have participated in programs and educational campaigns on the campuses regarding sexual violence."

The nomination refers to Julie Boynton, executive director of Project Sister. She and her staff were presented with the award at the annual Town and Gown Reception, held Sept. 30 at the home of Claremont Graduate University President Robert Schult.

This annual award underscores The Claremont Colleges' growing efforts to strengthen community ties, especially in the city of Claremont.

Quick facts

- The Community Partner of the Year Award is given annually by The Claremont Colleges at the fall Town and Gown reception to recognize a business, community agency, business, and/or community person who has contributed significantly during the past academic year to enhance town/gown relations with a special focus on students.
- Nominations are invited from the presidents and other key leaders at the colleges.
- The final selection is made by the Council of The Claremont Colleges.
- Past winners include:
 - 2005 Brent Hunter, owner of Bert & Rocky's Cream Company
 - 2005 Dr. Wayne Cox, long-time coach of the men's Claremont Rugby Team
 - 2006 Community Friends of International Students
 - 2007 Rotary Club of Claremont – noon club
 - 2008 The Claremont Club
 - 2009 Arman Ariane, owner of Xerxes
 - 2010 Claremont Kiwanis Club
 - 2011 Chris Ulrich - Claremont Avenue for Life Long Learning (CALL program)
 - 2012 Claremont Village Marketing Group
 - 2013 Claremont Unified School District
 - 2014 Pilgrim Place
- More information about Project Sister is located at <http://projectsister.org>.
 - From the website: *“Project Sister Family Services aggressively pursues a two-pronged approach to addressing the problem of sexual assault and child abuse: providing services to those in crisis with extensive follow-up treatment, and specific sexual assault outreach and prevention education programs. Our mission is to reduce the trauma and risk of sexual violence and child abuse. By alleviating the devastating aftereffects of sexual violence and child abuse, Project Sister Family Services helps to end the cycle of family violence that can occur throughout generations by helping survivors to heal. Project Sister Family Services’ prevention education programs empower people of all ages to avoid dangerous situations in hopes of their never having to experience the trauma of sexual assault.”*

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The Claremont Colleges, a consortium of five undergraduate liberal arts colleges, two graduate institutions and Claremont University Consortium, which provides shared institutional support services, is reminiscent of the Oxford-Cambridge model. The undergraduate colleges include Pomona College, Scripps College, Claremont McKenna College, Harvey Mudd College and Pitzer College. The two graduate institutions include Claremont Graduate University and Keck Graduate Institute. Each academic institution has its own campus, its own students and faculty, and its own distinctive mission. The seven independent institutions offer rigorous curricula, small classes, distinguished professors, and personalized instruction in a vibrant residential college community that provides intensive interaction between students and faculty. Undergraduate students may choose from more than 2,000 courses offered each year across the colleges. With 7,700 students and 3,600 faculty and staff, located on more than 560 acres of land, the consortium generates an endless variety of intellectual, cultural, and social activities.