

Bank of America Awards \$66,500 to Santa Barbara and Ventura Nonprofits

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The Bank of America Charitable Foundation is announcing that it has awarded \$66,500 in grants to 13 local nonprofits providing workforce development and education opportunities in Santa Barbara and Ventura. The grants are part of Bank of America's focus on employment opportunities and preparing the under-employed and the next generation of workers with the skills needed for careers in the evolving workforce.

The selected nonprofits play a critical role in connecting low-income individuals and families to financial education, job training, workforce development and/or mentoring at their point of need.

“The social and economic benefits of employment have been proven time and time again, providing confidence, optimism and stability to our families,” said Diana Gleason, Bank of America market president for Ventura and Santa Barbara. “Our philanthropic investments are one way we're working to connect individuals to the resources they need to lead financially stable lives.”

Organizations receiving funding include:

- California State University Channel Islands Foundation to help support their Engineering Innovation Summer Bridge program for underrepresented students, specifically in the STEM fields.
- Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers to assist the Youth Employment program which provides over 10,000 paid employment hours to youth whom are over the 50 percent low income threshold.

- University of California Santa Barbara to promote their Summer Research Mentorship Program which enables 80 under-served high school students the chance to participate in a six-week intensive summer research project with faculty and graduate students at UCSB.
- Ventura County Community Foundation to fund the Center for Nonprofit Leadership's Nonprofit Workforce Internship Program which matches undergraduate interns with local organizations.
- Women's Economic Ventures to advance services to help local clients launch, stabilize, grow and sustain a business especially for women-owned businesses, Latinos and high-growth businesses.

Funding was also awarded to: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County; Boys & Girls Club of Santa Barbara; Boys & Girls Club of Santa Clara Valley; Goodwill Industries of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties; Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation; Santa Barbara Partners in Education; The Foundation for Santa Barbara City College; and Ventura College Foundation.

In 2014, the Bank of America Charitable Foundation gave over \$500,000 to the Santa Barbara and Ventura communities in the form of grants and employee matches. Additionally, local employees volunteered nearly 50,000 hours in the same region.

To learn more about Bank of America's corporate social responsibility efforts, visit www.bankofamerica.com/about and follow @BofA_Community.

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