



# Spera Speaks...

*The Project Spera Quarterly Newsletter, Volume 3: Issue 1, January 2005*

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## World Affairs Challenge: World Energy

*Get involved to help California  
students learn about  
inte*

# After-school Program Continues at 4 Sites

Project Spera is starting the spring semester with four after-school programs, three of which are for middle school students and one for high school students. At the **OMI Excelsior Beacon Center**, middle school students will be preparing for and competing in the World Affairs Challenge, researching the consequences of global warming. A new high school program offered at the OMI site will be making a documentary film on a social justice issue of their choice. This program is supported in large part by a partnership with Sati Media in Oakland, who will teach students the technical skills necessary to create a documentary, in addition to providing equipment.

At the **Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center**, students have already begun to prepare their Challenge presentations on the global politics of oil. These students are in the midst of initiating a school-based awareness project on the problems with over-consumption, and will continue their efforts post-Challenge.

At our two-day per week site, **Community Bridges Beacon Center** in the Mission, this semester's program stresses leadership and community service. Students are applying for this program, and upon successful completion of the leadership and service training, will receive a \$100 leadership award from the Beacon Center. Currently, students in this program are also preparing for the Challenge.

Learn more about the After-school Program and our other programs by visiting our recently re-designed website:  
**[www.projectspera.org](http://www.projectspera.org)**

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## Professional Development Program Update

We are pleased to report that in collaboration with our partner school **International Studies Academy**, we received funding from the NEA for our professional development work with the school. This grant will bring needed resources to the school and will subsidize the costs of the work we carry out in ISA. This semester, we will continue to work with teachers to design units and courses that address international affairs. We will also work with the student body to celebrate international days of significance throughout the semester as another means of raising awareness about important global issues.

At **Youth Empowerment School** in Oakland, our consultations with teachers for the spring semester are underway. We will be working closely with history, science, and language arts teachers to integrate global issues into existing curriculum. In addition, we will be supporting efforts to integrate global issues and vital skills into advisory classes for all students.

We are also pleased to welcome **Nick Hernandez** to the team. Nick will be interning with Project Spera with the specific goal of strengthening and growing the Professional Development Network in the Bay Area. We look forward to his involvement.

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## Support & Funding Update

In 2004, volunteers and interns contributed approximately **4,442 hours of their time** to Project Spera. This is equivalent to **\$53,304**, and remains a key to the success of our programs. In particular, we would like to thank Jake Meyer, Sarah Haldan, Yassie Tran, Aysha Rajput, Evangelina Pena and Jamie Hall for their hard work and commitment to Project Spera.

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In addition to volunteer hours, we are again proud to report renewed funding from the Mortenson Family Foundation and first-time funding from the S.A. Haldan Trust, the Steven Strobert Foundation and The Leonardt Foundation. Thank you also to Kate Dumbleton and Café Royale for continued support, and to Funky Door Yoga for its in-kind donation.

The following generous individuals have also contributed since our last newsletter:

Adam Becker	Julie and Doug Buchan
Andrew Chin	Julie Tassi
Bruce Goldner	Justin Reyna
Carol Grodzins	Kelly Sears
Colleen and Justin Boyd	Kevin Duffy
Daniel Alarco	Lynne S Yirchott
David Hansen	Matthew McCreedy
Debbie McBride	Mr. and Mrs. Arnold
Denise and Greg Kelly	Paul and Kate Ramundo
Doreen Ho and Mike Tse	Phil Giarrizzo
Gary and Joyce Ruckelshaus	Rayna Goldman and Lee Cytrynbaum
Gary Kaplan	Richard Hamburger
Isabel Ames-McDevitt	Ron Herring
Ishmael Riles	Scott Balkan
Jason Curran and Amy Robertson	Shira Tannor
JD Ghelfi	Susan Sutherland
Jeffrey Couch	Tara and Troy Witt
Jennifer Lucky	Temp Keller
Joe and Linda Curran	Thomas and Barbara Carey
Joya Rajadhyaksha and Shariq Kajiji	Vincent Farrell

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS.**

Your contribution supports programs that make an enormous impact on the education and future of youth.

**If you have not made a donation and would like to contribute to the effort to raise youth awareness about global issues, you can give online at: <http://www.projectspera.org/involved/donate.html> or mail your gift to us at: Project Spera, 999 Sutter Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109.**

In the 2004-5 Academic Year...

... **\$435** supports a student for a semester in our after-school program

... **\$165** supports a student participant in the 2005 World Affairs Challenge

... **\$29** supports a student for a year through our Professional Development Program

**Make your tax-deductible contribution today!**