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*Creating a Legacy for Future Generations*

CONTACT:

Katie Brasted, Woodlands Conservancy  
504.433.4000; 504.453.4934 (CELL)

## CSUCI - 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YEAR AT WOODLANDS TRAIL SITE



*BELLE CHASSE, LA* – When most college students were preparing for sunny days on the beach for their spring break, twenty Students and Faculty from CSU Channel Islands, Oregon State, & UCLA prepared for their ten day trip to the Greater New Orleans area to immerse themselves in the local culture and participate in hands-on projects throughout the region. The annual ten day trip includes the students and professors spending several days at Woodlands Trail and Delacroix Preserve to conduct field assessments of native and non-native vegetation that exists in standard assessment plots. The information is shared with Woodlands Conservancy that uses the annual data to evaluate treatment methods to remove non-native vegetation, make adaptive management decisions and seek funding to conduct further restoration work. During the 2016 trip, abundant and frequent rains restricted the amount of time the assessment team was able to spend in the field and thus they were unable to conduct the sampling at Delacroix Preserve. When the students are not involved in service learning projects such as those for Woodlands Conservancy or building community gardens in lower Plaquemines Parish, they spend their time learning about the local culture by visiting jazz clubs, eating local food, attending cooking classes to learn to make gumbo, meeting with various organizational leaders to learn about the function of levees and other topics that help them get a broad view of the local area.

In the photo above, students are holding the photo of CSUCI President, Richard Rush who has been a huge supporter of service learning trips for students. A #whereberush theme was employed during the student's trip to honor the retiring founding President who has been at the helm of CSUCI for the past fifteen years. For more information on the annual service learning trip, visit: [nola.piratelab.org](http://nola.piratelab.org) and [woodlandsconservancy.org](http://woodlandsconservancy.org)

**Woodlands Conservancy is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization**

PO Box 7028 Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037 | Phone/Fax 504.433.4000 [info@woodlandsconservancy.org](mailto:info@woodlandsconservancy.org) | [www.woodlandsconservancy.org](http://www.woodlandsconservancy.org)

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