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**Volunteer Activities, Community Service Learning, and Internships among USF Students:
Responses to Graduating Student Survey, 1998-2009
Executive Summary**

Office of Institutional Research

July 2009

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In July 2009, the Office of Institutional Research conducted a longitudinal study of USF student responses to three items addressing volunteer activities, community service learning, and internships on the graduating student surveys conducted from May 1998 to May 2009. The total number of students in the study was 11,733, representing more than 91 percent of all USF students who attended the May graduation ceremonies during that period.

The responses of our students show considerable change over the time period investigated. Among the most salient findings:

- Participation in volunteer activities increased 5 percentage points from May 1998 to May 2009, from 30 percent to 35 percent.
- Participation in community service learning increased 16 percentage points from May 1998 to May 2009, from 18 percent to 34 percent.
- Participation in internships increased 10 percentage points from May 1998 to May 2009, from 24 percent to 34 percent.

We believe that the changes noted above regarding student responses on the graduating student survey reflect:

- The *Vision, Mission, and Values Statement* of the University of San Francisco, approved by the Board of Trustees on September 11, 2001, which calls for “a commitment to advancing a culture of service that respects and promotes the dignity of every person,” and states that USF will offer, in the Jesuit Catholic tradition, “undergraduate, graduate, and professional students the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as persons and professionals, and the values and sensitivity to be men and women for others.”
- The implementation of the new mission-driven core curriculum in 2001 and 2002 requiring “courses that integrate a form of community/public service into the academic undergraduate learning experience.”

- The increasingly wide range of volunteer and community service opportunities available at USF through the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good, University Ministry, student organizations, residence life, living learning communities (e.g., Martín-Baró Scholars, Erasmus Project, the Garden Project, Esther Madríz Diversity Scholars), and through individual faculty members, specific courses, and academic departments.

The University of San Francisco has a 154-year-old history that has consistently made community service and outreach activities an important goal for students, faculty, and staff. This goal is reflected in the Jesuits' 469-year-old history as well. The current focus at USF on volunteer activities, community service learning, and internships is grounded in our institutional history and will continue to guide the institution in future years.

