The Blum Center for Global Engagement at UCI Irvine will serve as an intellectual hub, a training ground in engaged scholarship focused on poverty alleviation through interdisciplinary, field-based, action-oriented research and learning. In so doing the Center will create a new generation of students and researchers uniquely positioned to ask and address critical questions about economic development that are key prerequisites to devising effective and innovative approaches to alleviate contemporary poverty.

As we prepare our undergraduate and graduate students for leadership in a globalized 21st-century world, understanding the complex and cross-cutting forces that shape the field of international development in general and efforts at poverty alleviation in particular will be central to their education as professionals and as global citizens. The UCI Blum Center will prepare the coming generation of leaders educated on our campus to think globally and locally, analyze complex poverty-related problems from a variety of perspectives, and master the skills of dialogue, relationship building and listening in order to discover ways to solve the most challenging problems in poverty and development.

The Center will begin its work by designing and launching two educational programs—an undergraduate minor and a graduate concentration in “civic engagement and poverty alleviation.” Both will draw upon existing campus strengths from a variety of applied disciplines, including alternative energy, hydrology, appropriate technology, social computing, alternative finance, public health, and sustainability science, as well as policy-oriented domains, including international relations, sustainable development, demography, migration, peace building, development economics and law, human and gender security and global humanitarianism.

**Year one**: hire a faculty director and staff assistant to guide the creation of the minor; inaugurate the Blum Lecture Series as a means of announcing the creation of the Center to generate anticipation and excitement on campus; and set the stage for the teaching, learning, and application objectives that are foundational to the Center. The director will lead the effort to design and secure the appropriate approvals for an undergraduate minor and to generate a campus buzz about the Center. Simultaneously, the Graduate Division will design and launch a graduate concentration, beginning with the announcement of Blum Fellowships funded by the UCI Graduate Division.

**Year two**: inaugurate the academic program and welcome the first class of Blum Scholars on campus. Create a flourishing research environment in which the Blum scholars will work by providing faculty with seed grants. These grants will support undergraduate participation in applied, community oriented research focused on the causes, manifestations and impact of poverty on human lives. Finally, year two will be devoted to incorporating the theme of service learning into the new teaching and learning center to highlight and advance the importance of this work and to support faculty in pursuing their projects.

**Year three**: Monitor and showcase the Blum Scholars and Fellows as well as the Blum-funded research at a “Blum Symposium” featuring completed work and emphasizing ongoing efforts. One outcome of the Blum Symposium and attendant student/faculty engagement will be to identify a theme to anchor future work, for example, “women and empowerment,” “microfinance in developing countries,” or “cross border sustainability.”

During the first three years we will also work to ensure the long term survival of the Blum Center by: 1) Convincing Richard Blum that our efforts are worthy of his continued financial support; and 2) submitting proposals to Foundations (Ford, Carnegie and others) to secure large scale support for the activities associated with the center.