

## City of Ventura will partner with 500 students from Cal Lutheran University for “You Got Served” project, Aug. 29, 2016

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Photo opportunities

### City of Ventura will partner with 500 students from Cal Lutheran University for “You Got Served” project, Aug. 29, 2016

**Event:** The City of Ventura will partner with 500+ students from California Lutheran University for “You Got Served” -- the school’s largest service-learning project (in terms of student participants.) Cal Lutheran’s entire incoming freshmen class and transfer students will work alongside city staff and the Ventura Hillside Conservancy to remove the invasive arundo donax -- which kills native plants, shelters illegal activities and is a fire hazard -- in the Ventura River bottom.

Cal Lutheran’s Community Service Center has worked with the city’s Volunteer Ventura! office on the university’s annual “You Got Served” program since 2008. The partnership has allowed all the incoming students to work together on a single project that introduces them to Cal Lutheran’s commitment to service and justice and connects them with the local community in a meaningful way. Together, the city and university came up with the environmental clean-up program.

During the last eight years of the program, Cal Lutheran’s students and city staff:

- assisted with the restoration efforts in the Ventura and Santa Clara Riverbeds, removing arundo and more than 57 tons of trash and debris;
- carefully removed invasive ice plant in the Ventura Harbor Wetlands Ecological Reserve;
- beautified three city parks, a historic site, and a community center

Cal Lutheran President Chris Kimball along with other faculty and staff members will also assist students in this service learning project intended to connect students to our local community and show what can be accomplished through public-private partnerships.

**Date & Time:** Monday, August 29, 2016 from 1pm to 3:30pm

**Location:** Ventura Riverbed

**Contacts:** Cary Glenn 805-766-5226 or Lysa Urban 805-689-3627 at the City of Ventura; Nicole Cozzi 805-341-5429 at Cal Lutheran, or Adrienne Stephens 805-643-8044 at Ventura Hillside Conservancy. NOTE: This event is not open to the public.

**Photo Opportunities** (Students in the Ventura Riverbed, removing arundo)