



## CGI U 2017 UCF Commitments to Action

**Commitment Name:** Crossing Cultural and Educational Bridges

**Team Members:** Mais Al-Jabbawi

**Focus Area:** [Education](#)

Crossing Cultural and Educational Bridges (CCEB) will work to benefit immigrant, refugee, and asylee Arab students and their families who left their home countries because of violent circumstances seeking a better life in the USA. The CCEB will be attending classes with the Arab students, who went through disruptive educational experience, translating from and to their teachers as well as explaining the cultural background behind the Arab students' behavior and act in classrooms. The CCEB will partner with local NGOs and UCF ESL professors and scholars to help the immigrant and refugee families familiarize with the new culture and educational system so they can help their kids comprehend and adjust with the schools' cultures and educational dynamics.

**Commitment Name:** Principals Leadership Council

**Team Members:** Melissa Rosario

**Focus Area:** [Education](#)

The Principals Leadership Council will select 15 students in grade 3rd-5th grade within Tangelo Park Elementary School. These students will work directly with the school Principal to address student concerns, and create service projects that impact their school and community. This project aims to develop students that are empowered to be leaders within their schools and communities to bring about positive social change. This project hopes to engage the local community (UCF & High schools) in contributing to the mentorship and role modeling piece that is essential for the success of these students. The main outcome would be a spike in student's interest in their education and general leadership/community service.

**Commitment Name:** The Big Shift

**Team Members:** Milka Derisma, Kelly Merrill Jr., Cynthia Nnagboro

**Focus Area:** [Education](#)

In 2015, The Big Shift committed to providing college readiness programs for community college students that are transferring to a university. Big Shift has helped dozens of student at UCF and is now ready to implement the system at other universities across the state. Big Shift will implement their on-campus immersion program which includes a 1-4 day camp and transfer mentors, at four of the 12 public universities in the state of Florida. The Big Shift program has been proven effective in reducing transfer shock (when a student transfer to a university and their grades drop), the goal is to pilot the program at other universities and reduce the rates of transfer shock at their schools.



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**Commitment Name:** Solar Sisters in the Sunshine State

**Team Members:** Catherine Ninah, Chantale Ninah

**Focus Area:** Environment and Climate Change

Solar Sisters in the Sunshine State want to engineer a brighter and more sustainable future through the implementation of Solar Array Parks across the state of Florida starting with college campuses. To implement, we have created a proposal and proof of concept to the University of Central Florida and are working with the Office of Sustainability to start the first hang - out area for college students and open - area for the community to learn about renewable energy via tours and state of the art equipment. Specifically, universities have sustainability goals to be carbon neutral or zero waste in the near future. By using solar energy as opposed to non-renewables, we can help power the world through fun.

**Commitment Name:** A&M Leadership of H.O.P.E.

**Team Members:** Sara Ard

**Focus Area:** Peace and Human Rights

Sara Ard is creating a program to benefit survivors of Human Trafficking by enabling them gain a college degree while being connected to leaders and mentors in their field of study. The program is intended to further expand a survivors circle of influence and empower them to restore their goals for the future. We are developing relationships with leaders in various fields of study to educate them on Human Trafficking and how they can give back to survivors. We are also connecting survivors to leaders in their area of study to further expand their exposure to their interest. We have also connected to a leadership organization willing to create a leadership program to also assist survivors.

**Commitment Name:** Green Greeks

**Team Members:** Madeline Mills, Trevor Hall, Joseph McGee

**Focus Area:** Public Health

Green Greeks is planting organic and ecofriendly gardens behind sorority and fraternity houses to educate Greek life about the environment, gardening, and healthy eating. Half of the fresh produce is donated to Knights Food Pantry for students in financial need. Green Greeks is fighting against food insecurity for college students at the University of Central Florida and other schools nationwide by making healthy, fresh food options available to Greek life for their in-house kitchens and providing more produce for students in financial need through donating to Knights Food Pantry. Green Greeks will partner with Arboretum and the Health and Wellness Center to host workshops to teach students about gardening and help provide gardening materials for planting.



## CGI U 2017 UCF Commitments to Action

**Commitment Name:** Hearts for the Homeless Tampa

**Team Members:** Elena Pham, Ranya Awad, Kayla Ferro

**Focus Area:** Public Health

Hearts for the Homeless Tampa is an initiative that will establish partnerships with local food shares and clinics in Tampa, Florida, in order to combat lack of preventative healthcare resources within the homeless community. To make preventative health care easily accessible, Hearts for the Homeless Tampa will work with the food share Metropolitan Ministries, which serves food to hundreds of homeless individuals daily. By utilizing local food shares, easier access to blood pressure screenings and healthcare information can be provided. Partnership with free clinics, such as Tampa Family Health Center, will allow the organization to send afflicted individuals to receive free medical intervention if necessary. This commitment will result in increased awareness for hypertension prevalent in the Tampa homeless community.

**Commitment Name:** South African Sanitation Initiative

**Team Members:** Selena Houck

**Focus Area:** Public Health

Project coordinators will collaborate with community members of Intabazwe, South Africa, to install durable pit latrines with locally-collected corrugated metal and cut plastic bottles. Locals will be trained on how to install such infrastructure on their own, in order to ensure sustainability. Through installing these durable latrines, sickness and death tolls relating to waterborne diseases will decrease, as well as the amount of roadside plastic litter. By creating latrines in downhill locations with durable supplies, bacteria from human waste will be prevented from entering local water supplies. In addition, community members will be educated on the importance of maintaining sanitary conditions in order to minimize the spread of illness. Potential strategic partners include Sanergy and the Nkosingathi Community Center.